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Congress's RS nomination rejected amid chaos in M.P.

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

A Congress delegation comprising party general secretaries and others protest outside the EC office in New Delhi on Tuesday. ANI

A dramatic day of political developments in Madhya Pradesh's capital Bhopal that began with several Congress MLAs heading to the airport to leave for Bengaluru, ended with the nomination of Meenakshi Natarajan, the party candidate for one of three Rajya Sabha seats from the State, being rejected during scrutiny.

This prompted top Congress leaders, led by party general secretary K.C. Venugopal, to stage a sit-in outside the Election Commission of India (EC)'s office in New Delhi. Protests were also held outside the State Election Commission's office in Bhopal by State leaders, including Leader of Opposition Umang Singhar and State unit chief Jitu Patwari.

The rejection of the nomination came at a time when a batch of Congress MLAs was en route to Bengaluru amid fears of cross-voting in the polls.

Accusing the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of having "moved from vote theft to seat theft", Ms. Natarajan said: "It started when the BJP fielded a third candidate despite not having the adequate number of members, and we started to understand the kind of politics it is practising with democracy and the Constitution. What was limited to vote theft through SIR [special intensive revision of electoral rolls] and other methods has today reached [the stage of] seat theft" .

'Hidden details'

Ms. Natarajan's nomination was rejected by Assembly Secretary Arvind Sharma, who is the Returning Officer for the election, based on an objection raised by the BJP candidate for the third seat, Mahesh Kewat, and State party general secretary Rahul Kothari.

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CID searches residence of Mamata, Trinamool office

Search by the State agency comes in connection with alleged forgery of signatures of party MLAs; Trinamool leaders slam action as 'political vendetta', Bengal Minister says no one is above the law

Shrabana Chatterjee
Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Under scanner: A team of CID at the residence of former West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in Kolkata on Tuesday. ANI

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of the West Bengal Police on Tuesday searched the residence of former Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in Kolkata in connection with the alleged forgery of the signatures of two Trinamool Congress MLAs. The CID officials said that they wanted to search the premises since its address, 30B Harish Chatterjee Street, is also referred to as the Trinamool's party office. After a stand-off with party officials, the CID team entered the premises around 4 p.m. and carried out the search.

Former Trinamool MP Subhasish Chakraborty said he could not allow the CID officials inside as both Ms. Banerjee and her nephew and party general secretary Abhishek Banerjee were not present.

He urged the officials to come back later when one of them would be present. However, CID officials said they had come to search the party office on the premises, and not her house, and accused Mr. Chakraborty of "obstructing the investigation". Later, Trinamool MP and senior advocate Kalyan Banerjee arrived at the location and slammed the search.

"They have sent the CID now because they know everyone is in Delhi... Mamata Banerjee is not in the picture, neither any FIR has been lodged against her, nor has she been called as a witness," he said. Accusing Chief Minister and BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari of becoming "vindictive", Mr. Kalyan Banerjee said the search was a case of harassment against Ms. Banerjee. Trinamool Rajya Sabha MP Derek O'Brien condemned the search as a "shameless political vendetta". After "vote loot", there was an attempt to loot the files of a political rival as well, he said.

State Minister Agnimitra Paul said the search showed that no one is above the law.

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MAMATA MEETS SONIA » PAGE 13

NEARBY

Stand-off over portfolio reaches Cong. leadership

BENGALURU
The discontentment of Krishna Byre Gowda over being given a truncated portfolio seems to have reached the doors of the Congress Central leadership.

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₹95,962 crore set aside for VB-G RAM G

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Tuesday announced an interim allocation of ₹95,962 crore for the new rural employment scheme, the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission Gramin.

This sum does not include the State governments' share and most States will have to contribute an additional 40% of the sum allocated to them. The combined outlay for the scheme will be ₹1.25 lakh crore.

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U.S. must respond to chopper attack: Trump

Associated Press
DUBAI

U.S. President Donald Trump on Tuesday blamed Iran for shooting down a U.S. Army helicopter near the Strait of Hormuz, and said his country must respond to the attack.

In the first known operation of its kind by the American military, a drone boat rescued the two aviators who were aboard the Apache attack helicopter when it went down near the critical shipping lane.

Military officials did not say what caused the Apache helicopter to go down, saying the crash was under investigation.

Mr. Trump said in a social media post that military officials told him "the Iranians shot down one of our highly sophisticated Apache Helicopters".

"Nevertheless, the U.S. must respond to this attack," Mr. Trump wrote.

However, before he accused Iran of downing the helicopter, Mr. Trump had expressed renewed optimism over negotiations with Iran. "We have a good chance" of signing a deal in "two or three days," Mr. Trump had said late on Monday,

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The king's coronation

Over the last few years, PBKS skipper Shreyas not just knocked on the door but banged it; he deservedly enjoyed a double delight when he returned to India's T20I set-up not only as player but also as captain

Amol Karhadkar

There are cricket careers. Then there are careers where the plot twists appear too unrealistic even for fiction. Shreyas Iyer's professional life over the last three years belongs firmly to that category.

He had a recurring back injury which threatened not merely form but longevity. There were questions over his commitment towards domestic cricket. He lost a BCCI central contract. He went from being considered an all-format certainty – and at one point even a leadership candidate – to becoming only an ODI regular.

Shreyas led two different IPL franchises (Kolkata Knight Riders and Punjab Kings) to finals in successive years, winning one and losing the other. He produced one of the greatest World Cup knockout innings by an Indian batter and still found himself outside certain squads months later.

The latest episode

If Indian cricket ever runs out of scripts, somebody only needs to document the past few years of Shreyas' cricketing life. The latest episode was released last Saturday. The 31-year-old was not just recalled into India's T20I set-up after two-and-a-half years away from the squad. He was handed the captaincy!

That he returned to the side is understandable. That he returned to the side as skipper is fascinating. Though Shreyas being chosen for the top job may not be surprising, the circumstances under which he became captain certainly are. For years, conversations on Shreyas revolved around leadership potential.

Could he command a dressing room? Could his personality dominate elite players? Could he tactically survive international cricket? Could he transition from an instinctive leader to a traditional one? Over the last 18 months, those questions were answered in the affirmative at the domestic and franchise level.

Providing evidence

Shreyas simply went out and provided evidence. He led KKR to the IPL title in 2024. He guided Mumbai to the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy later in the year. In 2025, he steered PBKS to the IPL summit clash.

He handled dressing rooms full of superstars. He managed retention cycles, changing squads and the increasingly exhausting ecosystem of franchise cricket, where captains are analysed after every over and judged every morning.

The question of whether Shreyas could captain was no longer asked. Could Indian cricket continue ignoring those credentials became the real question.

What made Saturday's announcement peculiar was not Shreyas' promotion. It was the man he replaced. Suryakumar Yadav's removal is what makes this transition feel unusual. Because unlike many leadership changes, India did not replace a failing captain. India replaced a successful captain who had diminishing returns with the willow. A very successful one, for that matter.

When Rohit Sharma's team ended India's 17-year wait for a T20 World Cup title in June 2024, it felt like closure. When Suryakumar and Co. defended that crown in March, it felt like confirmation.

India under Suryakumar did not merely win. It established control. The domination in bilaterals continued. The pool of talent expanded.

India in T20Is increasingly resembled what Australia once was in the late 1990s and early 2000s – a side where changing personnel rarely altered results.

And yet only months later, Suryakumar lost not only captaincy but also his place. That perhaps tells us more about the current team administration than anything else.

Indian cricket, just like most other spheres in a country busy hero-worshipping, has traditionally functioned around personalities. But this version increasingly appears to function around timelines.

The current team management – especially the head coach and chief selector axis of Gautam Gambhir and Ajit Agarkar – has repeatedly shown willingness to make difficult calls before circumstances force them.

Sometimes those calls have looked brave. Sometimes unnecessary. Sometimes downright ruthless. But almost always, they have followed a pattern. The team first, individuals second.

Beneficiary and survivor

Rohit experienced the bitter feeling despite clinching an ICC title (Champions Trophy). Now Suryakumar experiences the same despite having lifted one. And somewhere between those decisions sits Shreyas – simultaneously a beneficiary and survivor. Perhaps the most fascinating subplot are Shreyas and Agarkar. Few player-selector relationships have generated as much speculation over the years.

When Agarkar functioned as Mumbai's chief selector towards the end of the previous decade, stories of friction between him and Shreyas emerged repeatedly. There was the famous incident where the batter was reportedly asked to undergo a fitness test minutes before boarding a flight for a Ranji Trophy game in 2018. Then came the stronger stance around domestic cricket participation. Eventually came Shreyas' removal from the central contract list.

The word on the street was that there were personal issues. The selection committee meeting held last Saturday complicated that narrative. Because if personal differences truly dictated decisions, recalling someone and trusting him with captaincy directly become difficult to explain.

What came out of the meeting was something else. The selection panels may disagree. They may challenge. They may punish. But increasingly, decisions appear linked more to long-term planning than personality clashes. This does not automatically make every decision correct. But it makes the process easier to understand.

Strange task

Shreyas' challenge extends far beyond captaincy. The first task is perhaps the strangest one. He must cement his own place. Modern T20 cricket offers captains authority, not security.

Hardik Pandya remains in the ecosystem. Jasprit Bumrah will almost certainly return closer to the next T20 World Cup.

Axar Patel is an important senior figure. Sanju Samson, Ishan Kishan and Tilak Varma were all discussed as leadership candidates.

It means captaincy does not protect Shreyas. Performance is still a must.

The second challenge is acceptance. Captaining an IPL side and leading India are different jobs. IPL dressing rooms are in place only for about 10 weeks a year. National team dressing rooms last years. Franchise cricket allows resets. But international cricket rarely does.

Added dimension

Managing players who captain franchises themselves creates another dimension. Managing players who may believe that they can captain India at some point creates an even bigger one.

Shreyas must therefore not just lead. He must convince.

The third task is maintaining standards. This might actually be the hardest. Rohit inherited a side recovering from repeated ICC disappointments. Suryakumar inherited a functioning machine. Shreyas inherits something arguably tougher. A champion side expected to remain champion. Expectations are dangerous because they rise faster than the time teams take to evolve.

The next T20 World Cup only complicates matters. Australia and New Zealand will host it in October-November 2028.

Conditions change everything. Larger boundaries compared to Indian grounds, bouncier pitches, possibly more seam movement than flat-beds at home. Different finishing requirements.

Batters who dominate in Asia sometimes appear ordinary there. Twenty-eight months sounds comfortably distant. But international cricket rarely permits such comfort.

Most underrated complication

Then comes perhaps the most underrated complication.

The ecosystem around him may change before the T20 World Cup arrives. Gambhir's contract, for now, is until the ODI World Cup in 2027.

Agarkar's stay period is similar unless extensions emerge and the BCCI rulebook is modified. Meaning Shreyas may operate with different selectors, different coaches and perhaps different philosophies.

That effectively leaves him with roughly 15 months to establish authority. Fifteen months to create a leadership identity. Fifteen months to make himself indispensable irrespective of future decision-makers. It perhaps explains why sympathy naturally flows towards Suryakumar.

Irrespective of what one thinks about his form, removing a World Cup-winning captain entirely feels harsh. Especially when it is about India's most transformative T20 batter.

For a major part of the last five years, Suryakumar raised batting expectations. Perhaps he deserved another series. Perhaps two. Yet harshness increasingly appears central to this regime.

And while criticism exists, results continue strengthening their arguments. Which brings the story back to Shreyas.

Operating at extremes

Few careers in Indian cricket have operated at such extremes.

Too much hype. Too much criticism. Too many injuries. Too many comebacks. Too many questions. Now comes the strangest phase. For the first time in years, Shreyas is not fighting for relevance. He is set to define direction.

If he establishes himself and successfully carries India into another T20 World Cup cycle, Saturday's call may eventually be remembered as 'the moment'.

And if India eventually completes a hat-trick of T20 World Cup triumphs while adding the Olympic gold along the way, the Shreyas 'web series' may require more than just another season.

It might require a cinematic universe.

THE GIST

- In 2024, Shreyas led KKR to the IPL title and Mumbai to the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy. In 2025, he steered PBKS to the IPL summit clash
- Maintaining the lofty standards will be a tough challenge, considering that India has won the last two T20 World Cups
- If he establishes himself and successfully carries the national team into another T20 World Cup cycle, the selection panel's call may eventually be remembered as 'the moment'

K.R. DEEPAK

Flat dwellers find no benefit in B-Khata to A-Khata, OC schemes

Though flat dwellers are not the intended beneficiaries of either scheme, there is no clarity on this, leading to confusion

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

Many apartment dwellers in Bengaluru, with gaps in their documentation, have been running from pillar to post seeking an A-Khata for their B-Khata properties, or trying to get utility connections without an Occupancy Certificate (OC), under the two ongoing schemes. Though apartment dwellers are not the intended beneficiaries of either scheme, there is no clarity on this, leading to confusion.

The Karnataka government is now converting B-Khata plots into A-Khata properties after collecting a fee of 2% of the guidance value. MURALI KUMAR K.

OC exemption

S. Lata, a flat owner in north Bengaluru, said her apartment building did not have an OC and had no utility connection. "I hoped we would be covered by the exemption from availing an OC for homes up to 2,400 sq. ft. But when I approached civic officials, I was told that not the flat, but the plot size itself should be less than 2,400 sq. ft. to avail of the exemption. This means no apartment dwellers will benefit from this scheme," she said.

Following a December 2024 Supreme Court order mandating an OC for utility connections, lakhs of properties were stuck in Bengaluru. To provide some relief, the Karnataka government first exempted buildings built on 1,200 sq. ft. plots from the OC requirement and recently relaxed it further to buildings built on 2,400 sq. ft. plots.

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar announced the new relaxation after the first Cabinet meeting he chaired on June 3. The order says buildings with ground+3 floors or stilt parking+4 floors on plots smaller than 2,400 sq. ft., with deviation of less than 20%, will be exempted from availing an OC.

Property consultant K.R. Ramesh said a few smaller apartments with six to eight units built on 40x60 sites would benefit. "But according to the rule, these apartments can only have six units, but in practice they are built with eight units. Those with six units on 40x60 plots and no OC will now get utility connections, but their numbers are fewer," he said.

Left in limbo

Meanwhile, several apartments built on revenue land are B-Khata properties. The Karnataka government is now converting B-Khata plots into A-Khata properties after collecting a fee of 2% of the guidance value. While the plot is being regularised, the buildings on them are not.

However, apartment plots are not covered under this scheme either.

M.S. Shankar, of the Forum for People's Collective Efforts, Karnataka, said he lives in a B-Khata flat in Bhattarahalli, K.R. Puram, and the civic body was not converting B-Khata flats into A-Khata. He argued that the government should take measures to get the Akrama-Sakrama scheme, which is stuck in the Supreme Court, cleared so that many homeowners get at least one chance to regularise their properties.

K. Arun Kumar, general secretary of the Bangalore Apartments Federation (BAF), said the Karnataka government should stop actively discriminating against apartment dwellers and provide them the same opportunity as independent house owners to regularise their properties.

Apartment Act stuck

The BAF has been pushing for the Karnataka Apartment (Ownership and Management) Bill, 2025, to be made into law, but so far there has been no progress. Mr. Shivakumar had promised to bring in this law, and two city MLAs have since written to him to fast-track it.

Currently, apartments are governed by two laws in the State – the Karnataka Apartment Ownership Act, 1972, and the Karnataka Societies Registration Act, 1960 – which have contradictory provisions, leaving much confusion.

"The new Bill has been in the works for over three years now, and it is high time it is made into law to end confusion in the governance of apartments in the State. We hope it is tabled in the upcoming Assembly session," Mr. Kumar of BAF said.

Leaders pay homage

Last respects: Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah meet the family members of late All India Congress Committee secretary Suraj Hegde, at the latter's residence in Bengaluru.

GBA chief orders fire safety audit of K.R. Market

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

M. Maheshwar Rao, Chief Commissioner of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), has ordered a comprehensive fire safety audit of K.R. Market amid concerns over fire hazards on the premises.

During an inspection of the market on Tuesday, Mr. Rao directed civic officials to assess fire risks, emergency preparedness measures, and evacuation systems.

Emergency exits

He also instructed them to ensure that adequate emergency exits are present and install firefighting infrastructure to enable a quick response in the event of a fire.

Mr. Rao asked officials to identify and remove encroachments in front of shops within the market complex and impose double penalties on violators. He also directed officials to maintain existing toilets for public use, demolish dilapidated blocks within the premises, and ensure regular cleaning of the market.

Leaks in roofing

To address monsoon-related issues, he instructed officials to plug leaks on the market's glass roofing, improve drainage systems, and clear flooding-prone areas on a weekly basis.

Mr. Rao further directed officials to prepare a plan for the effective utilisation of the unused third floor of the market building. He suggested exploring the possibility of establishing revenue and waste management offices on that floor.

Officials have been directed to maintain existing toilets, demolish dilapidated blocks within the premises, and ensure regular cleaning of K.R. market. FILE PHOTO

Apartments to supply treated water to nearby industries

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Four residential communities across Bengaluru will soon supply treated wastewater to nearby industries.

The communities at Kolte Patil i-Towers, Nirman Layout, Himagiri Residency, and Purva Palm Beach will collectively contribute more than 25 tanker loads of treated water daily, averaging 48,000 to 60,000 litres per apartment per day, to industries in Electronics City, Jigani and surrounding areas, in a bid to help reduce their dependence on freshwater resources.

The apartments have partnered with Boson Whitewater, a water utility company, to convert excess treated water from residential sewage treatment plants into high-quality water. The treated water supplied through the initiative is processed to achieve low dissolved solids and hardness levels, making it suitable for various industrial applications and reducing the need for further treatment.

Pranjal Kumar, a resident of Kolte Patil iTowers, said that while the residents have been using treated water for landscaping and maintenance activities, there was still a significant surplus that required disposal.

Kolte Patil i-Towers generates approximately seven tanker loads of excess treated water every day, which is now supplied for industrial reuse in the Electronics City region. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"This initiative provides a practical solution by converting that excess water into a resource for nearby industries. Apart from reducing our disposal costs, it also gives residents the satisfaction of knowing that water is being responsibly reused rather than wasted," said Rachita Bhujle, another resident of the apartment. The 438-unit residential complex, housing nearly 1,600 residents, generates approximately seven tanker loads of excess treated water every day, which is now supplied for industrial reuse in the Electronics City region.

At Nirman Layout in Jigani, a 60,000-litre-per-day recovery system has been established, enabling up to five tanker loads of water to be supplied daily to industries in the Jigani industrial area.

Himagiri Residency in Electronics City is expected to contribute around four tanker loads of treated water per day by the end of June, while Purva Palm Beach is expected to supply eight to 10 tanker loads daily for industrial use by the end of this year.

"Through these partnerships with apartments, we are creating a circular ecosystem where excess treated water from apartments is upgraded into high-quality industrial water and supplied to nearby industries. Our aim is to build a decentralised water reuse model that can help cities like Bengaluru improve water security while reducing dependence on freshwater sources," said Gowthaman Desingh, cofounder, Boson Whitewater, said.

Tussle between civic agency and contractors cripples waste collection in Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amid mounting garbage woes in the city, the ineffective collection and management system appears to be fuelled by a tussle between the Greater Bengaluru Authority and garbage collection contractors.

"One of the primary reasons for the garbage issue is the delay in finalising and issuing garbage collection tenders for nearly a decade," said Clement Jayakumar, a member of the Mahadevapura Task Force, a civic group.

While contractors consistently point to irregularities in the tenders and corruption, the civic agency points to a deeper "mafia" and collusion among existing contractors in creating problems with the tendering process.

As a result, multiple issues such as a shortage of tippers and staff, irregular availability of personnel, delays in salary payments, and vehicle breakdowns have emerged, leading to the collapse of the city's garbage collection system.

According to official data, staff attendance has fluctuated between 60% and 90%, leading to irregular waste collection in some parts of the city. K. MURALI KUMAR

GARBAGE CRISIS DEEPENS

The primary issue is payment. Typically, civic bodies in the city make monthly payments to the BSWML, which in turn pays contractors once they raise their bills. A contractor managing waste collection in east Bengaluru said that BSWML makes delayed payments and has left them unpaid for months. "For a few months, we can manage paying the workers, but if the issue persists, where do we bring the money from to keep paying the staff?" the contractor questioned.

However, Karee Gowda, Chief Executive Officer of BSWML, told *The Hindu* that the payments being held back relate to contractors who have not raised their bills. To support his claim, Mr. Gowda showed notices sent to contractors urging them to submit their bills so that payments can be completed.

According to Mr. Gowda, contractors must make Employees' State Insurance (ESI) and Provident Fund (PF) payments for waste collection staff; otherwise, BSWML cannot release payments to them.

This feud between the administration and contractors has affected the financial condition of ground-level workers, who face difficulties making ends meet, resulting in irregular attendance and, more importantly, a search for ways to make quick money.

Meanwhile, garbage from commercial establishments is collected separately. In some cases, however, auto tippers assigned to collect waste from residential areas collect waste from small commercial establishments in exchange for money. Subsequently, the tippers transfer the waste to large compactors and mark their routes as completed, resulting in waste collection being skipped in certain stretches or localities for the day.

There is currently no effective mechanism in place to prevent such practices.

Several drivers and waste collection workers have become highly irregular in their attendance due to payment-related issues. According to official data, staff attendance has fluctuated between 60% and 90%, leading to irregular waste collection in some parts of the city. There have been several complaints of waste remaining uncollected for days, and in some cases even a week.

Amid the shortage of tippers, staff shortages, and irregular waste collection, hundreds of tonnes of waste end up on the streets, creating black spots as residents who miss the tippers' collection timings resort to dumping garbage in public spaces.

(This is the third story in the series on the deepening garbage crisis in the city.)

Nearly 10% of garbage collection tippers fail frequently: BSWML

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Out of the 5,200 waste collection vehicles in the city, nearly 8 % to 10%, or around 500 vehicles, either break down or fail to commence operations due to mechanical issues on a regular basis, according to Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) records, as admitted by its CEO Karee Gowda.

A senior official from South Bengaluru explained that frequent breakdowns are compounded by the reduced waste-carrying capacity of garbage tippers, resulting in incomplete route coverage by the vehicles.

This is one of the reasons behind the unusual waste collection timings. While auto tippers operate between 6 a.m. and 10 a.m., several areas, particularly in the southern, eastern, and southeastern parts of the city, continue to witness waste collection until 11 a.m. or even 11.30 a.m.

According to civic officials, in most places, tippers operate with only one worker, even though the mandated norm requires two staff members per vehicle. K. MURALI KUMAR

V. Ramprasad, a solid waste management expert, pointed out that even the tenders lack strict norms regarding collection timings, which need to be fixed. According to civic officials, in most places, tippers operate with only one worker, even though the mandated norm requires two staff members per vehicle. This too contributes to delays in collection.

"These auto tippers are being sent for servicing more frequently, which means waste collection is completely affected on those days. What is concerning is that many of these tippers may stop operating altogether within a few months," said another official.

Ramesh K.N., Commissioner of the South City Corporation, pointed out that there is also a shortage of auto tippers. Since 2013, the number of tipper vehicles has fluctuated between 5,000 and 5,500. However, the city has expanded since then, and population growth has led to a multifold increase in waste generation. Bengaluru generates 5,500 tonnes of solid waste every day.

Scientists find a blood test that predicts lung cancer years early

A new study has zeroed in on a set of 14 blood plasma proteins, called the '14-protein signature', as a strong predictor of being diagnosed with lung cancer years in advance; the team also identified an existing drug that could potentially be used to reduce the risk of developing lung cancer

S. Swaminathan

Lung cancer is one of the more common cancers affecting people worldwide. This is mainly due to smoking and, to a lesser extent, air pollution and occupational exposure. According to the latest World Health Organization estimates, there are about 2.5 million new cases and 1.8 million deaths every year. Prevention offers the ideal solution to this public health problem.

Scientists are currently on the threshold of finding a new way to identify people who may be predisposed to developing lung cancer and protect them proactively. A multinational team, from almost a dozen countries, led by Charles Swanton of the Francis Crick Institute, London, published its findings on an exciting discovery in *Cell* on May 4. The team has zeroed in on a set of 14 blood plasma proteins, which they call the "14-protein signature", as a strong predictor of being diagnosed with lung cancer years in advance.

The team also identified an existing drug that could potentially be used to reduce the risk of developing lung cancer.

Sampling blood plasma is akin to a liquid biopsy. The plasma proteomics profile provides a real-time snapshot of health and disease. ADRIAN SULYOK/UNSPLASH

Looking in the blood

Blood plasma is the liquid portion of the blood that flows in our body. It contains thousands of proteins that come from every organ and tissue. This entire set of proteins is called the plasma proteome. The large-scale systematic study of the proteome is called proteomics.

Sampling blood plasma is akin to a liquid biopsy. The plasma proteomics profile provides a real-time snapshot of health and disease. If scientists could compare the profiles of people before and after the onset of a disease, they can glean important clues about changes in the plasma proteome as a person goes from well to unwell.

To get such data pertaining to lung cancer, Swanton et al. turned to the U.K. Biobank, an ongoing initiative that tracks the lives of approximately half a million volunteers to find out who falls ill and why. The Biobank is a repository of anonymised biological samples and corresponding health-related information of all these volunteers. It is accessible to scientists around the world to develop diagnostics and therapies for everyone, everywhere.

For a subset of the volunteers, around 10%, the plasma proteomics profiles became available in 2023.

The team used the profiles of about 48,000 volunteers to train a machine-learning model along with patient characteristics, such as age, gender, smoking status, lung cancer diagnosis, etc. This way, the team identified 14 plasma proteins linked to lung cancer.

How a cancer forms

Next, the researchers used the model to predict the incidence of lung cancer diagnoses using the proteomics data of about 12,000 patients whose data had been excluded from the model's training. This set included 75 individuals of lung cancer with a median time to diagnosis of 5.1 years. The model predicted lung cancer diagnosis with a very high sensitivity, successfully identifying more than 75% cases.

The 14-protein signature was also found in eight additional datasets, including one from life-long non-smokers, essentially validating the signature's usefulness.

The scientists also found that the signature was more pronounced when specific inflammatory pathways involving smoking and air pollution were activated. In a previous study, the same team had found that air pollution causes inflammation that awakens dormant mutant lung cells, which eventually become cancer cells.

This detail, together with the observations in the new study, led the team to hypothesise that smoking induces mutations, lung inflammation triggered by environmental cues follows, and this culminates in lung cancer.

The signature was also more distinct in people who developed chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and pulmonary fibrosis.

The CANTOS trial

If future research finds that this is indeed one way that lung cancer develops, scientists can think of treating the inflammation before the cancer takes root. Canakinumab is a drug made by Novartis and which currently has the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's approval to treat inflammatory disorders. Swanton et al. were aware of a previous clinical trial called CANTOS that tested canakinumab's ability to reduce the risk of recurrent cardiac events in patients who had experienced a prior heart attack and were suffering from persistent inflammation. Its effect was modest.

However, Swanton et al., who carried out a retrospective analysis of the trial data, found that 2,300 of the CANTOS participants who received canakinumab happened to display the 14-protein signature – and the risk of lung cancer was down by 50% in this group.

The data suggested that canakinumab could be a potential drug to prevent future lung cancer in those with the 14-protein signature.

Step by step

The 14-protein signature needs to be further validated. It has been derived from a population of limited diversity, representing the U.K., the U.S., and East Asia. If the signature is found to be relevant in many or even all populations, scientists will then have to develop a diagnostic test to detect all 14 proteins in blood plasma.

Assuming such a test also becomes available, canakinumab will have to be tested in clinical trials for its new purpose. Unfortunately, the CANTOS trial found that canakinumab could have serious side effects. The European Medicine Agency's report concluded that the drug's toxicity could outweigh its benefits.

Canakinumab is also prohibitively expensive. Treatments usually involve multiple doses over long periods of time. In the U.S., it costs $73,000 for a year. It is neither registered nor commercially available in India, and it would be imperative to explore inexpensive alternatives with similar function and with more acceptable safety profiles.

Ultimately, if we manage to tick all these boxes, the diagnostics and the drug would be of great benefit for individuals at risk of lung cancer worldwide. The work of Swanton et al. is a step in this direction.

(S. Swaminathan is a retired professor of biology from BITS Pilani-Hyderabad and a former scientist, International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, New Delhi. ssn225@gmail.com)

THE GIST

- The 14-protein signature has been derived from a population of limited diversity, representing the U.K., the U.S., and East Asia
- While promising, it still needs to be further validated
- If the signature is found to be relevant in many or even all populations, scientists will then have to develop a diagnostic test to detect all 14 proteins in blood plasma

BIG SHOT

Preventive measures: A drone view of farmers planting rice seedlings in a paddy field in Cirebon regency in West Java province, Indonesia, on June 3. The Indonesian government has urged farmers to immediately replant their plots, responding to the erratic forces of weather for a possible prolonged dry spell linked to El Nino. REUTERS

WHAT IS IT?

A black hole's elusive wind

Vasudevan Mukunth

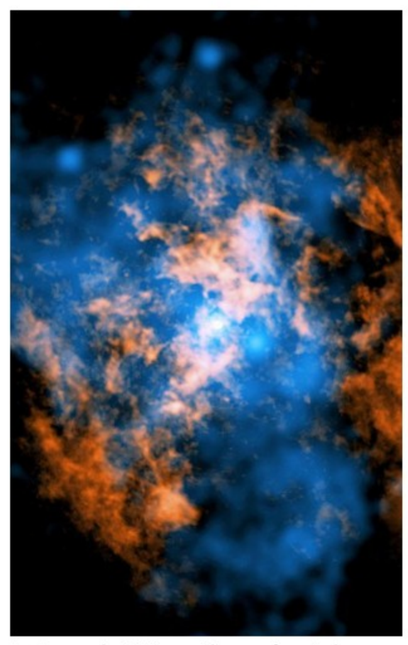
For more than 50 years, astronomers have suspected that Sagittarius A*, the supermassive black hole at the centre of the Milky Way, was blowing a wind of hot gas into space. However, they couldn't find evidence of it. This has now changed if the results of a new study, using the ALMA telescope in Chile, are to be believed.

By combining five years of data from ALMA, researchers from Northwestern University, U.S., have reported a large cone-shaped clearing in the dense molecular gas surrounding the black hole. This clearing is at least 3.2 lightyears long and opens at a 45-degree angle, as if the black hole is 'blowing' away cold gas that would otherwise fall into it.

According to the study, the finding is the first definitive evidence of a "presently active" wind from Sagittarius A*. By blowing away the gas, the wind keeps too many stars from forming, which would deplete the gas and prevent future star formation. If too many stars explode when they die, they could also blow away the remaining gas, nixing the galaxy's ability to evolve.

When the black hole pulls on some gas, it swirls around instead of falling straight in. As it accelerates, the gas particles are heated by friction as the gravity pressurises them. Eventually the gas becomes a plasma burning millions of degrees hot. As per the study, just 1 g of this gas can release enough energy to push away 100 kg of nearby gas.

The pushed gas makes up the wind.



An image depicting evidence of a wind blowing away from Sagittarius A*, the Milky Way's supermassive black hole. NASA

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

USHA

UNSTOPPABLE

Padma Shri awardee and Indian women's cricket icon

Harmanpreet Kaur

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Compensation for families of employees killed in plant blast

1.72 in ₹ crore. Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan announced compensation for the families of each regular employee killed in the Vizag Steel Plant explosion. Contract staff families will receive ₹45.75 lakh each, while severely injured workers get ₹10 lakh. PTI

FPI investment in G-secs under FAR after tax exemption

8,794 in ₹ crore. Foreign portfolio investors have invested in government securities under the Fully Accessible Route after the government exempted them from income tax on interest income and capital gains arising from these bonds. PTI

Record high number of engineering student enrollments in T.N.

3.02 in lakh. This is the highest recorded number of students enrolled in Tamil Nadu Engineering Admissions 2026, according to the Directorate of Technical Education. This surpasses the previous record of 3,01,026 set in 2025. PTI

People displaced by powerful earthquake in Philippines

32,000 A 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck southern Philippines on Monday. Waves up to 1.4 metres above tide level were measured in the Philippines, while smaller waves washed ashore in Indonesia, Palau and southern Japan. AP

Number of people killed in the cholera outbreak in Nigeria

74 More than 7,850 people have been infected in a cholera outbreak that began in early May in Nigeria's northeastern Borno state. Médecins Sans Frontières said infections are rising sharply each day across 14 local government areas. REUTERS

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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A new phase in India-Nepal relations

Nepal PM indicated that the boundary dispute is not one-sided and should be resolved through diplomatic channels; his remarks, amid objections over trade and pilgrimage routes and shifting political tone in Kathmandu, suggest a cautious move towards a more rational approach in India-Nepal relations

WORLD INSIGHT

K.V. Rajan
Atul K. Thakur

Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah "Balen" limited his intervention in a parliamentary discussion on the boundary dispute between India and Nepal over Kalapani, Lipulekh, and Limpiyadhura (areas claimed by both countries) on May 31 to a few minutes. He seemed to suggest that the issue was not one-sided.

"What surprised me after becoming Prime Minister is that it is not only India that is accused of encroaching Nepalese land. In some places, Nepal may also be occupying territory claimed by India. Both countries should examine the facts objectively and resolve the matter amicably as friends."

This was predictably greeted with a storm of protests within and outside Nepal's Parliament, despite the Prime Minister's reiteration that Nepal and India were working towards resolving the boundary issue through diplomatic channels.

GETTY IMAGES

Border dispute response

Nepal has also objected to the resumption of India-China trade through the Lipulekh Pass. Mr. Shah shared that the diplomatic note sent by Nepal on this matter received a positive response from India, and both sides have agreed to address the issue through dialogue. Earlier, Nepal's Foreign Ministry reiterated its commitment to resolving the boundary issue through diplomatic means. The statement came after India rejected Nepal's objection to the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra route through Lipulekh Pass, describing Kathmandu's territorial claim as 'unjustified' and "influenced by 'unilateral artificial enlargement'."

However, the latest developments suggest a more rational approach, which hopefully discards the possibility of the dispute becoming a lasting bilateral irritant and signals a fresh beginning. It is still early days, and the new government's thoughts in Kathmandu on resetting relations with India are not yet clear.

Shifting political tone

What is already clear is that Nepal's governance is firmly in the hands of a young generation with its eye on the future rather than the past, determined to free the country from the chains of corruption, nepotism, and ideology – and to prioritise social and economic issues.

Objections raised over trade and religious tourism through areas claimed by Nepal, the postponement of the Indian Foreign Secretary's visit to Nepal to discuss the Prime Minister's India visit and the disinclination of Mr. Shah to break protocol to receive India's Foreign Secretary, all reflect an emerging stance that India will be treated on par with other countries, rather than being given the easy access to top leadership it has traditionally enjoyed under the much-discussed "special relationship." These may have injected jarring notes in the trajectory of ties, but India appears to have taken them in stride.

Nepalese observers have questioned the wisdom of ignoring India's crucial importance to Nepal's present and future well-being. Likely, the bilateral ambiance will not be held prisoner to protocol or to assertions of irrational nationalism or *de facto* inequality.

Diplomatic path ahead

The sobering thought is that discussions between diplomats and experts may not yield a solution, and the fact that despite both sides emphasising economic cooperation as the core of bilateral ties, the boundary issue cannot be pushed to the back burner indefinitely.

Based on publicly available information, British-era data will be self-contradictory, as British India updated its maps with more recent technology compared to the East India days. The suggestion by Mr. Shah that China and the U.K. may also need to be consulted for a long-term solution may, however, create further complications and delays.

The Chinese position, taken by President Xi Jinping, was that Nepal should sort out the border issue with India. This remains the most rational advice, and it is hoped that both China and Nepal will adhere to this position.

What is important is to avoid an unending period of so called diplomatic and expert-level discussions which will permit the dispute to become a major irritant, given the positions taken by Nepal (which has even printed its version of the disputed map on its currency notes) and India (which has followed the boundary delineation it inherited from the British in 1947 and has serious security interests in maintaining the *status quo*).

What might be a better option would be for both countries to draw inspiration and ideas from (a) their centuries-old continuum of multifaceted linkages, (b) the open border tradition which has been in existence over more than 1,700 km and was followed even in the disputed area before the India-China war in 1962, and (c) the strong, mutually trusting institutional relationship between the Indian and Nepalese Army which could facilitate and come in useful to sustain a mutually acceptable practical solution.

This, however, will require a shift in mindset on both sides: a determination not to permit differences on boundary delineation to cloud a unique relationship, and a recognition that the so-called encroachment of territory is a mutual phenomenon that is not a result of aggressive territorial assertion and need not be a cause for mutual tension.

The changes in Nepal and the Prime Minister's statement offer an opportunity that India, too, should respect and seize. The last Indian Prime Minister who had the vision and courage to step beyond conventional diplomatic approaches to such problems with Nepal was Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Prime Minister Narendra Modi appears to have not only vision and courage but also the necessary political self-confidence in selling difficult policies and decisions to the nation, overriding the usual bureaucratic and inevitable nationalistic political posturing. Rabi Lamichhane, President of Nepal's ruling Rastriya Swatantra Party and Nepal's Foreign Affairs Minister Shishir Khanal visited India recently to engage in political and diplomatic meetings. The timing of their visits was crucially important

It is time for India and Nepal to move towards a more enlightened bilateral relationship to build a model sustainable partnership.

(K. V. Rajan is former Indian Ambassador to Nepal and Atul K. Thakur is a policy professional. Views are personal.)

THE GIST

- The boundary dispute over Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura continues to strain India-Nepal ties, with both sides maintaining competing territorial claims and relying on historical maps and inherited boundary lines.
- Recent developments reflect shifting diplomatic signals, with both countries emphasising dialogue and expert-level engagement, though differences over trade routes, protocol, and sovereignty remain unresolved.

Inclusion without abolition in China's *hukou* system

Hukou reform pushes inclusion of migrants in public services while retaining structural controls

Anand P. Krishnan

China's State Council, on May 22, issued guidelines to 'promote basic public services at people's place of residence,' regardless of *hukou*, or residence registration status. These guidelines direct local governments – more specifically, megacity administrations – to improve and enhance their delivery measures in the domains of education, public rental housing, social and medical insurance, and a range of social assistance measures for the entire resident population within their administrative jurisdictions.

Hukou reforms since 2014

Hukou is an instrument of social control by the ruling party-state, originating in the 1950s, that distinguishes people as belonging to rural and urban areas based on the official registration of their place of residence. In the Mao era, the system was intended to limit internal migration and manage resource allocation under the prioritisation of rural development. The economic reforms after 1978 loosened restrictions to allow labour mobility to industrial regions and urban centres, while retaining the institution of *Hukou*. It functions as an internal passport, as access to social services and government provisions is tied to residential registration. From 2014 onwards, the government has been pushing incremental reforms to the system to align with national urbanisation plans and gradually equalise social benefits for migrants and locals, beginning with the conversion of rural to urban *hukous* in smaller cities. While nationwide implementation has progressed gradually, megacities have remained outside the purview until now.

The May 22 guidelines build on the decisions of the Third Plenum of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in 2024, which directed the removal of restrictions on access to social insurance at the place of employment. This was further reiterated in a five-year people-centered urbanisation action plan instituted by the State Council in July 2024 to raise the permanent urban residents from 66.16% (932.67 million) in 2023 to nearly 70% (estimated around 987 million) by 2029.

According to China's National Bureau of Statistics, at the end of 2025, the country's 'floating population' (*liudong renkou*) or rural migrants, stood at around 358 million, making up 25% of the population. Along with demographic concerns, the Central government is also guided by the economic imperative of increasing domestic consumption and hastening efforts to create a national unified market with the free flow of capital and talent. This also intersects with efforts to incentivise the mobility of young talent into frontier regions such as Xinjiang to support regional development.

The party-state, over the last three years, has widely promoted the concept of 'investing in people'. Now included in the new 15th Five-Year Plan, the concept is a new development orientation to raise knowledge and skills to transform 'human resources into human capital' and move from 'a demographic dividend' to a 'talent dividend'. People-centred urbanisation, through the inclusion of long-term residents by relaxing household registration rules, is a critical component of this framework.

Another driver is the growth of flexible and new forms of employment – shorthand for gig and platform workers – who are over 200 million, out of the country's total 740 million workforce.

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, the Central government, in conjunction with the official trade union, has sought to create a comprehensive national policy framework covering labour protection and political supervision. Taken together with frequent cases of labour discontent, the party-state views gig and platform workers as a key labour constituency that needs to be regulated and politically incorporated.

Persisting structural issues

Interestingly, the word *hukou* itself is only mentioned once in the latest guidelines. Since 2014, with the onset of reforms, efforts have been made to replace it with concepts like "permanent resident population" (*changzhu renkou*) and "place of actual residence" (*changzhu di*) to build inclusivity. However, structural constraints continue to constrain the reform measures.

Local governments bear responsibility for delivering welfare and public services, with financing largely dependent on fiscal transfers from the Central government. The real estate sector remains unstable, thus affecting city governments' budgets. While the Central government has indicated resource transfers and compensations to migrant-receiving cities, there are no commitments to new spending. The guidelines do not address or show a clear intent to resolve structural gaps. For instance, differing social insurance standards between well-off coastal cities and inland provinces (migrant-sending regions) mean that migrant workers' monthly contributions are at higher rates, but they receive lower benefits. Similarly, migrants who receive medical treatment in major cities but are enrolled in poorer regions will still receive lower reimbursements and face lower coverage limits. Further, the guidelines do not compel employers in the gig economy to strictly enroll workers in welfare schemes. In all, much room is left for the use of discretion by local administrations.

This recalibration only goes to show that the *hukou* system continues to remain in place and that there are no significant changes to the *status quo* for migrant labour.

(Anand P. Krishnan is a Fellow at the Centre of Excellence for Himalayan Studies, Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence, Delhi NCR, and Assistant Editor of the journal, China Report)

BMTC to appoint consultant for smart ticketing

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has floated a tender to appoint a Project Monitoring Consultant (PMC) to independently oversee the implementation and operation of its ambitious Comprehensive Smart Ticketing Solution Project, which will involve the deployment of up to 15,000 smart electronic ticketing machines (ETMs) across its network over the next five years.

The Hindu had earlier reported on plans for fully integrated digital ticketing solution across BMTC bus network. The upgrade will replace existing fare collection methods with smart electronic ticketing machines (ETMs), aimed at improving efficiency and commuter convenience, according to BMTC officials.

BMTC officials said that the consultant will be tasked with monitoring the performance of the technology solution provider engaged for the project and ensuring compliance with contractual, technical, cybersecurity and operational requirements.

The corporation currently operates over 6,800 buses across Bengaluru and serves nearly 45 lakh passengers every day. As part of its modernisation drive, BMTC is replacing its existing ticketing infrastructure with Android-based, 4G and Wi-Fi-enabled smart ETMs integrated with a cloud-based Automatic Fare Collection System.

"The project is designed to provide commuters with multiple payment options, including cash, UPI, QR-code payments, National Common Mobility Card (NCMC), smart cards and digital passes. Given the scale and complexity of the project, an independent monitoring mechanism is required," a BMTC official said.

Officials stated that approximately 11,000 smart ETMs will be deployed initially, with the total requirement expected to reach 15,000 devices over a five-year period. The technology solution provider has been engaged under a rental model for four years, extendable by one year.

BMTC officials said that the consultant would assess every stage of the project. The PMC will also monitor integration with BMTC's existing Automatic Vehicle Location System (AVLS), Mobile One, Bengaluru One, Seva Sindhu and other digital platforms.

KKRTC bus veers off road

KALABURAGI: In a narrow escape, all 50 passengers aboard a KKRTC bus survived with minor injuries after the vehicle veered off the road and lay tilted in a roadside pit near Sonna-Sakrahalli on Tuesday morning.

The bus, operating on the Hoovinahadagali-Hosapete route via Morigeri, Sonna and Hagari Bommanahalli, veered off when its steering rod snapped suddenly causing the driver to lose control. There were no serious injuries.

BCU signs MOU with Radaptive Inc.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Dr. Manmohan Singh Bengaluru City University has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Radaptive Inc., California, U.S., with the objective of creating skill-based employability opportunities for students. The MoU was formally signed in Bengaluru on Tuesday by Naveen Joseph A., Registrar, on behalf of the university, and Sudha Dev, vice president, on behalf of Radaptive Inc.

Vice-Chancellor B. Ramesh exchanged the MoU documents with the representative of the U.S.-based organisation.He explained that the initiative aims to provide technology-oriented skill training to students of the social sciences, thereby enhancing their employability and professional competencies.

Speaking on the occasion, Sudha Dev, emphasised the importance of skill development among students. She also proposed providing appropriate guidance and capacity-building support to faculty members, along with curriculum revisions aligned with contemporary industry requirements.

The MoU further seeks to integrate Social Work education with technology, digital tools, and artificial intelligence, with the broader objective of strengthening community engagement and inclusivity while creating meaningful social impact.

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY
Civil Engineering ■ Kota Division ■ Tender Notice
No. W.623/15, Dated 09.06.2026 ■ CORRIGENDUM

Following Tender was published vide this office NIT No. W/623/15 dt. 08.05.2026 and is scheduled to open on 26.06.2026. Now **Bids will be opened on 15.07.2026.**

Tender No.	Description of work
82/2026/ PSSA	Appointment of Project Supervision Services Agency (PSSA) for various infrastructural Work in Kota Division of West Central Railway for 24 months.

Sr. Divisional Engineer (Coordination) Kota
स्वच्छ भारत अभियान - एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY
CORRIGENDUM No. 04/2026
Kindly refer this office advertised tender no. 8126WCRTM-01A opening date on 09.06.2026 published in advertised tender notice no. EPS/08/2026. The amendment made is as under:

Tender No. & Short Description	Tender Opening date	
	From	To
8126WCRTM-01A Description:- Rate contract (RC) for the supply of spares for Plasser make Track machines working in West Central Railway for the year 2026-27 & 2027-28 [List of Spares attached as per Annexure-1]	09.06.2026	19.06.2026
Description-Eligibility	1. Clause Description (General):- This is a PAC tender with Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) M/s. Plasser India Pvt. Ltd., Faridabad/ OEM's Authorized agent M/s. Agromach Spares Corporation, Mumbai. Hence tenderer has to be OEM M/s. Plasser India Pvt. Ltd., Faridabad or OEM's Authorized agent M/s. Agromach Spares Corporation, Mumbai only. Validity of the authorization of the agent has to be current and should cover entire period of execution or currency of proposed Rate Contract [RC]. In case the validity of authorization does not cover the proposed entire currency of Rate Contract [RC], the authorized agent, along with the offer should submit an affidavit/undertaking to the effect that necessary extension of the validity of the authorization would be ensured before the said expiry of validity of Authorization.	This is a PAC tender with Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) M/s. Plasser India Pvt. Ltd., Faridabad/OEM's Authorized agent M/s. SRI SATHYA SAI ENGINEERING PRIVATE LIMITED. Hence tenderer has to be OEM M/s. Plasser India Pvt. Ltd., Faridabad or OEM's Authorized agent M/s. SRI SATHYA SAI ENGINEERING PRIVATE LIMITED only. Validity of the authorization of the agent has to be current and should cover entire period of execution or currency of proposed Rate Contract [RC]. In case the validity of authorization does not cover the proposed entire currency of Rate Contract [RC], the authorized agent, along with the offer should submit an affidavit/ undertaking to the effect that necessary extension of the validity of the authorization would be ensured before the said expiry of validity of Authorization.
Firm's Name	M/s. AGROMACH SPARES CORPORATION-194D, GAIWADI, GIRGAUM ROAD, MUMBAI.	M/s. SRI SATHYA SAI ENGINEERING PRIVATE LIMITED-NO:16 NAVARATHNA GARDEN, 1ST STREET EKKATTUTHANGAL, CHENNAI.

Latest terms & condition and full information is available on website https://www.ireps.gov.in. *For Principal Chief Material Manager/WCR/Jabalpur*
स्वच्छ भारत अभियान - एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public are informed that I, **J. Abhishek Reddy** S/o Late G. Jayarama Reddy, Residing at No. 137, 8th Main, 4th Cross, Mathikere. My father has purchased a Site From Smt. Lalithamma W/o Munirathnam Reddy site bearing the assessment No. 5/10, Site No. 33, B.K. Nagar, 7th Cross, Ward No. 37, Yeshwanthpur this procedure of suit Lalithamma's Sale deed dated **8553/1962-63** has been lost by G. Jayarama Reddy & his Son has filed the complaint in Yeswanthpura Police Station dated 22.05.2026 acknoldgement NO. **2215986/2026** if found please contact the above address.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Our client **Mr. PRAKASH B.,** Son of Late. Giriyappa, Aged about 58 years, Residing at No.172, 6th Cross, Vijayashree Layout, RVCE Post, Mylasandra, Mysore Road, Bangalore - 560059, intended to purchase the property mentioned below from its owner – Mrs. V. Bhagyamma, as she represents that she is the absolute owner and is in possession of the property mentioned below.
If any person/s entity, Board, or any Government Authorities, Banks, Society etc., Has any claim/objection in the matter of the intended sale of the Schedule Property or any part, thereof, such a person submit its/his/her/their claim/objection with documentary proof thereof to the undersigned in writing within **21 (Twenty One)** days from the date of this notice, failing which it would be presumed that there are no claims/objections and our client shall proceed with the purchase of the Schedule Property.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the Residential Site bearing **No.2, E.PID No.9033516336,** formed in converted land bearing Sy.No.61/1A2, (duly converted from agricultural into non-agricultural residential purpose, vide Conversion Order bearing No.BDS.ALN(S)SR(K.T.)124/2003-04, dated 11.03.2004), measuring East to West **30 feet** and North to South **40 feet,** situated at **Kengeri Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk ,** and bounded on:
EAST BY : Site bearing No.1; WEST BY : Site bearing No.3; NORTH BY : Private Property; SOUTH BY : Road;
MANJUNATH & ASSOCIATES ADVOCATES
No.11, 1st Floor, "MEERA NIVAS" Opp: Sai Baba Temple, North Park Road, Seshadripuram Bangalore-560 020. Mobile : +91 8884958813

PUBLIC NOTICE
Our client **Mr. PRAKASH B.,** Son of Late. Giriyappa, Aged about 58 years, Residing at No.172, 6th Cross, Vijayashree Layout, RVCE Post, Mylasandra, Mysore Road, Bangalore - 560059, intended to purchase the property mentioned below from its owner – Mrs. Shantha Sathya Rup, as she represents that she is the absolute owner and is in possession of the property mentioned below.
If any person/s entity, Board, or any Government Authorities, Banks, Society etc., Has any claim/objection in the matter of the intended sale of the Schedule Property or any part, thereof, such a person submit its/his/her/their claim/objection with documentary proof thereof to the undersigned in writing within **21 (Twenty One) days** from the date of this notice, failing which it would be presumed that there are no claims/objections and our client shall proceed with the purchase of the Schedule Property.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the Residential Site bearing **No.3 and 4, E.PID No.1154643958,** formed in converted land bearing Sy.No.61/1A2, (duly converted from agricultural into non-agricultural residential purpose, vide Conversion Order bearing No.BDS.ALN(S)SR(K.T.)124/2003-04, dated 11.03.2004), measuring East to West **60 feet** and North to South **40 feet,** totally measuring **2400 Sq.ft.,** situated at **Kengeri Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk,** and bounded on:
EAST BY : Site bearing No.2; WEST BY : Site bearing No.5; NORTH BY : Private Property; SOUTH BY : Road;
MANJUNATH & ASSOCIATES ADVOCATES
No.11, 1st Floor, "MEERA NIVAS" Opp: Sai Baba Temple, North Park Road, Seshadripuram Bangalore-560 020. Mobile : +91 8884958813

PUBLIC NOTICE
Our client **Mr. PRAKASH B.,** Son of Late. Giriyappa, Aged about 58 years, Residing at No.172, 6th Cross, Vijayashree Layout, RVCE Post, Mylasandra, Mysore Road, Bangalore - 560059, intended to purchase the property mentioned below from its owner – Mrs. Shantha Sathya Rup, as she represents that she is the absolute owner and is in possession of the property mentioned below.
If any person/s entity, Board, or any Government Authorities, Banks, Society etc., Has any claim/objection in the matter of the intended sale of the Schedule Property or any part, thereof, such a person submit its/his/her/their claim/objection with documentary proof thereof to the undersigned in writing within **21 (Twenty One) days** from the date of this notice, failing which it would be presumed that there are no claims/objections and our client shall proceed with the purchase of the Schedule Property.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY:
All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing **Site No.467,** formed by BHARATH HOUSING CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED, in Sy.No.17 & 18 of UTTARAHALLI VILLAGE, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, now this property comes within the limits of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Corporation Ward NO.182, **Site No.467, 3rd Cross, 8th Main, Uttarahalli Bharat HBCS, Bangalore-560061,** measuring East to West: **30-0 feet,** and North to South: **40-0 feet,** in all measuring **1200 Square feet,** and bounded on the:
East by : Site No.468
West by : Site No.466
North by : Site No.453,
South by : Road.
RAVISHANKAR, ADVOCATE,
No.42/1, Appu Rao Road, Chamarajpet, Bangalore -560018
Mobile : 9880769388

PUBLIC NOTICE
The general public at large are hereby notified that my client **Sri.Nitish S.R S/o Ranganath S.,** No.415/1, 15th cross, 12th Main, Poornapragna Layout, Subramanyapura post Bangalore-560061, intends to purchase the schedule property, as described in the Schedule hereunder from its owner **Smt.R.Meenakshi Nagendranath W/o Late R.Nagendranath,** No. 467, 8th Main 3rd Cross, Near Bright Way School, BHCS Layout, Uttarahalli, Bangalore - 560061. Any Person/s institution / authority having any objection and bar or claim, rights, title or interest in the Schedule property, may lodge his/her/their/its objection or claim with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence within **10 days** from the date of the publication of this public notice. If no objections and/or claims are received within the stipulated period my clients would proceed to purchase the Schedule Property.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY:
All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing **Site No.467,** formed by BHARATH HOUSING CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED, in Sy.No.17 & 18 of UTTARAHALLI VILLAGE, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, now this property comes within the limits of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Corporation Ward NO.182, **Site No.467, 3rd Cross, 8th Main, Uttarahalli Bharat HBCS, Bangalore-560061,** measuring East to West: **30-0 feet,** and North to South: **40-0 feet,** in all measuring **1200 Square feet,** and bounded on the:
East by : Site No.468
West by : Site No.466
North by : Site No.453,
South by : Road.
RAVISHANKAR, ADVOCATE,
No.42/1, Appu Rao Road, Chamarajpet, Bangalore -560018
Mobile : 9880769388

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government Of India Undertaking)
Specialised ARM Branch
No.40, 1st Floor, Statue Square, Opp to Chikka Gadiyara, Mysuru.
E-mail: cb7899@canarabank.com

SALE NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/s and Guarantor/s particular that the under mentioned property mortgaged to Canara Bank, the possession of which had been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Bank under Section 13(4) of the Act will be sold by E-Auction as mentioned below for recovery of under mentioned dues and applicable interest, Charges and cost etc as detailed below.
The Property described below is being sold on **"AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS", AND "WHATEVER THERE IS"** under rule no.8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules (hereinafter referred to as the rules) for the recovery of the dues detailed as under:

Name and Address of the Borrower : 1. M/s P S A Metals, Door No. 393, 1st Floor, Shop No. 03, Sheru Circle, C K Road, Channapatna Town, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagar District-562160, **2. Sri. Syed Nooruddin,** S/o Syed Yakub, Door No. 563, Kothanahalli, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara District - 562160, **3. Smt. M Savitha,** D/o Mari Swamy, Site No. 472, Shivashakthi and Hardware, Dalavayi Agrahara, T. Narasipura Town, T. Narasipura Taluk, Mysuru District-571124, **Also at : 4. Smt. M Savitha,** W/o C M Prakash, Door No. 321, Dalavayi Agrahara, T. Narasipura Town & Taluk, Mysuru District-571124, **5. Sri. Shaik Mohammed Zeeshan,** S/o Asgar Ahmed, No. 653, Salamulla Road, Daira, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagar District-562160, **6. Smt. Shafiya Mumtaz Bano** W/o Asgar Ahmed No. 653, Salamulla Road, Daira, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagar District-562160, **Also at : 7. Smt. Shafiya Mumtaz Bano,** W/o Asgar Ahmed, No. 564, Ghanimiya Street, Daira, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagar District-562160, **8. Sri. Syed Shamshuddin,** S/o M Syed Yakub, No. 564, Ghanimiya Street, Daira, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagar District-562160, **9. Sri. Sheik Davud @ Asgar Ahmed,** S/o Mohammed Peer, No. 653, Salamulla Road, Daira, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagar District-562160 **10. Sri. Mohsien Ali,** S/o Late Abbas Ali, 564, Ghanimiya Street, Daira, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagar District-562160, **11. Sri. C M Prakash,** S/o M Mahadevappa, Door No. 321, Dalavayi Agrahara, T. Narasipura Town & Taluk, Mysuru District-571124. **The Total Amount Due : Rs. 1,86,86,412.88/- (Rupees One Crore Eighty Six Lakhs Eighty Six Thousand Four Hundred Twelve and Eighty Eight Paise Only) as on 31-05-2026.** together with further interest, costs and expenses and charges due to **Canara Bank, Specialised Arm Branch.**

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Property No. 1 :
Name of the title holder : Sri. Sheik Davud @ Asgar Ahmed, S/o Mohammed Peer
(as per the gift deed Document No. CAN-1-02607-2007-08, CD No. CAND35, Dated 14-01-2008 at Channapatna Sub-Registrar Office)
All that piece and parcel of the Commercial Land and Building, Muncipal Khata No. 1897, Muncipal Old Property No. 1530/1, PID No. 26-1-10-26, **Measuring East to West on the 6.47 Meters, on the South 7.62 Meters, North to South on the East 17.68 Meter, on the West 12.65 Meter (6.47+7.62 X 17.68+12.65 Meters),** Property Situated at Ward No. 26, Sathanur Road, Munciapl 'B' Division, Channapatna Town, Ramanagara District. **Property Bounded by : East By:** RCC Building belongs to S Mohammed, **West By :** Property of Syed Naziulla, **North By :** Property of Shah Mohammed, **South By :** Sathanur Road.
Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank

Property No. 2 :
Name of the title holder : Sri. Sheik Davud @ Asgar Ahmed, S/o Mohammed Peer
All that piece and parcel of the Residential Land and Building, Muncipal Khata No. 822, Old Property No.767/652/653, PID No.24-1-127-13, **Measuring East to West 7.62 Meters and 6.09 Meters, North to South 16.76 Meters and 3.96 Meters (7.62 & 6.09 X 16.76 & 3.96 Meter),** Property Situated at Door No. 13, Ward No. 24, between B.M. Road and old Mandipete Road, Block 1 (Salamulla Beedhi), Channapatna Town , Ramanagara District. **Property Bounded by East By:** Road, **West By:** 24-1-127-11, **North By:** 24-1-507-6B, **South By:** 24-1-127-Road.
Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank

Property No. 3 :
Name of the title holder : Sri. C M Prakash, S/o M Mahadevappa
(as per the registered sale deed Document No. TNP-1-03994-2015-16, CD No. TNPD86, Dated 31-12-2015 at T. Narasipura Sub-Registrar Office, T. Narasipura)
C) All that piece and parcel of the Commercial Land and Building property Khata Assessment No. 316, Madapura Village, Janger No. 516, Property No:152200702510220058, **Measuring East to West 51.816 Meters, North to South 54.8640 Meters. Total area measuring of 2842.83 Square Meters.**
D) All that piece and parcel of the Commercial Property Khata Assessment No.316, Madapura Village, Janger No. 516, Property No: 152200702510220053, **Measuring East to West 21.3360 Meter, North to South 36.576 Meters, Total area of 780.39 Square Meters.** Property Situated at Madapura Village, Talakadu Hobli, T Narasipura Taluk, Mysuru District - 571124. **Property Bounded by East By:** Own site & Property of Madashetty, **West By :** Property of Biligiri, **North By :** Talakadu Road, **South By :** Property of M. Mahadevaiah (M. Mahadevappa)
Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank

Property No. 4 :
Name of the title holder : Smt. V Savitha, W/o C M Prakash
(as per the registered sale deed Document No. TNP-1-02491-2012-13, CD No. TNPD54, Dated 20-07-2012 at T. Narasipura Sub-Registrar Office, T. Narasipura)
D) All that piece and parcel of the Residential Land and Building, Property Khata Assessment/Site No. 472/476/434, **Measuring East to West 50 Feet, North to South 18 Feet (50X18).**
E) All that piece and parcel of the Residential Land and Building, Property Khata Assessment/Site No. 473/477/435, **Measuring East to West 50 Feet, North to South 19¾ Feet (50X19¾).**
F) All that piece and parcel of the Residential Land and Building, Property Khata Assessment/Site No. 474/478/436, **Measuring East to West 50 Feet, North to South 19¾ Feet (50X19¾).**
Property Situated at Dalavayi Agrahara, T. Narasipura Town, T. Narasipura Taluk, Mysuru District-571124. **Property Bounded by East By:** Property of Nandish, **West By:** Road, **North By:** House of Gopalaraya, **South By:** House of Subramanyabhat
Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank

The details regarding E-Auction are Mentioned below:

DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION		RESERVE PRICE	EMD AMOUNT
21-07-2026 11.00 am to 2.00 pm	Property No. 1	Rs. 61,15,000/-	Rs. 6,11,500/-
	Property No. 2	Rs. 75,50,000/-	Rs. 7,55,000/-
	Property No. 3	Rs. 2,01,35,000/-	Rs. 20,13,500/-
	Property No. 4	Rs. 1,35,25,000/-	Rs. 13,52,500/-
BID FACTOR	Property No. 1-4	Rs. 1,00,000/-	
DATE AND TIME OF INSPECTION	Property No. 1-4	ON 20-07-2026 from 10.00 am to 02.00 pm.	
EMD Amount Payment		ON/BEFORE 20-07-2026 UPTO 4 PM	

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or may contact Chief Manager, Specialized ARM Branch, Mysuru, Canara Bank – C Vamsikrishna, Ph. No. 9848702166 during office hours on any working day.

Date : 10-06-2026
Place : Mysuru
Sd/- Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

PUBLIC NOTICE
Our client is looking to purchase the Properties (*defined below*) from the owners thereof. The persons listed in the table below are the owners of office spaces and car parks (as specified against their name in the table below) in Phase IIA building ("**Phase IIA Building**"), in the project known as MFAR Manyata Tech Park ("**Project**"), along with the undivided interest in the Land (*defined below*). The Project is constructed on the land admeasuring 12 acres 20 guntas comprised in Survey Nos. 114/2(part), 114/3(part), 114/4(part), 114/5, 115/1(part), 115/2, 115/3, 116/3(part), 116/4, 116/5, 116/6, 117/1, 121/1(part), 121/2, 122, 123/1A, 123/1B(part) and 123/2 situated at Nagavara Village, Kasaba, Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk ("**Land**"). The office space and car parks in Phase IIA Building and the undivided share in the Land owned by the Owners (*defined below*) listed below and more fully described in the Second Schedule are individually referred to as "**Property**" and collectively referred to as "**Properties**".

Sl. No.	Name of the Owner (each referred to as "Owner")	Floor / Unit Number	Super Built-up Area (in square feet)	Undivided Share (in square feet)	Car Parks
1.	Mr. Kapil Dhall son of Mr. Om Prakash Dhall	Ground Floor –Wing A	7,553	2,323.5	5 covered and 2 surface (total 7)
2.	Mr. Gaurav Dhall son of Mr. Om Prakash Dhall	Ground Floor –Wing B	7,553	2,323.5	5 covered and 2 surface (total 7)
3.	M/s Classic Investments	Entire 1st Floor	15,102	4,647	9 covered and 5 surface (total 14)
4.	(a) Mr. Ramavatar Agarwal son of Late Gopal Agarwal; and (b) Mrs. Kausalya Agarwal wife of Mr. Ramavatar Agarwal	Entire 3rd Floor	18,345	5,645	12 covered and 6 surface (total 18)
5.	Mr. R. Ramakrishna son of Late R. Rajagopalan	Entire 4th and 5th Floors	33,548	17,613	21 covered and 9 surface (total 30)
6.	(a) Mr. Shivakumar Kheny son of Late Maharudrappa Kheny; (b) Siddharth Kheny son of Mr. Shivakumar Kheny; (c) Pavitra Kheny daughter of Mr. Shivakumar Kheny; and (d) Anirudh Kheny son of Mr. Shivakumar Kheny.	Entire 2nd Floor	15,103	7,930	10 covered and 4 surface (total 14)
Total:			**97,204**	**40,482**	**83**

The Land is more particularly described in the **First Schedule**, and the Properties are more particularly described in the **Second Schedule**.
NOTICE is hereby given that we have been instructed to inspect and verify the right, title and interest of each of the Owners to their respective Property (*as detailed in the table above*). All person(s), bank(s), financial institution(s), company(ies), authority(ies) or entity(ies) having or claiming any share, right, title, estate, claim, interest, objection, lien, charge, mortgage, tenancy, lease, license, inheritance right, easement, attachment, acquisition notice, litigation or dispute of whatsoever nature against or to any Property or any part thereof whether by way of sale, transfer, exchange, assignment, lease, sub-lease, tenancy, sub-tenancy, leave and license, license, mortgage, inheritance, share, gift, devise, lien, charge, compensation, maintenance, easement, trust, beneficiary/ies, possession, release, relinquishment or by way of any other method through any agreement, deed, document, writing, conveyance deed, development agreement, letter of intent, bequest, succession, family arrangement/settlement, litigation, decree or court order of any court of law, any contracts, or encumbrance or otherwise howsoever, are required to make the same known, in writing and along with documentary evidence, to the undersigned at his office at JSA Advocates and Solicitors, 18th Floor, SKAV 909, No. 9/1, Residency Road, Richmond Circle, Bengaluru – 560 025 with all notices marked to the attention of Mr. Karthik B.M at karthik.bm@jsalaw.com, within 14 (fourteen) calendar days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which it shall be presumed that no claims, rights, title, estate or interest or objection exists and that claims, rights, title, estate, interest or objection, if any, shall be disregarded and shall be deemed to have been waived and/or abandoned.

FIRST SCHEDULE
Description of the Land
All that piece and parcel of land admeasuring 12 acres 20 guntas comprised in Survey nos. 114/2(part), 114/3(part), 114/4(part), 114/5, 115/1(part), 115/2, 115/3, 116/3(part), 116/4, 116/5, 116/6, 117/1, 121/1(part), 121/2, 122, 123/1A, 1B(part) and 123/2 situated at Nagavara Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk and bounded as follows:

On or towards the North	: Part of Embassy Manyata Business Park (previously known as Manyata Tech Park)
On or towards the South	: Part of Embassy Manyata Business Park (previously known as Manyata Tech Park)
On or towards the East	: M S Ramaiah residential layout
On or towards the West	: Internal Road of Embassy Manyata Business Park (previously known as Manyata Tech Park)

SECOND SCHEDULE
Description of Property
Item 1:
All that piece and parcel of (i) 7,553 square feet of super built area, being Wing A in the Ground Floor in Phase IIA building in the project, MFAR Manyata Tech Park constructed on the Land, together with (ii) 5 Nos. of covered car parks (bearing Nos. 1 to 5) and 2 Nos. of surface car parks (bearing Nos. 76 and 77). The super built area of 7,553 square feet is made up of 5,671.50 square feet of built area, 1,417 square feet of common area and 464.50 square feet of service area in the basement. Along with an undivided 0.4265% (percent) share, right, title and interest, working out to 2,323.5 square feet in the Land as described in First Schedule.
Item 2:
All that piece and parcel of (i) 7,553 square feet of super built area, being Wing B in the Ground Floor in Phase IIA building in the project, MFAR Manyata Tech Park constructed on the Land, together with (ii) 5 Nos. of covered car parks (bearing Nos. 6 to 9) and 2 Nos. of surface car parks (bearing Nos.78 to 80). The super built area of 7,553 square feet is made up of 5,671.50 square feet of built area, 1,417 square feet of common area and 464.50 square feet of service area in the basement. Along with an undivided 0.4265% (percent) share, right, title and interest, working out to 2,323.5 square feet in the Land as described in First Schedule.
Item 3:
All that piece and parcel of (i) 15,102 square feet of super built area being the entire First Floor in Phase IIA building in the project, MFAR Manyata Tech Park constructed on the Land, together with (ii) 9 Nos. of covered car parks (bearing Nos. 10 to 18) and 5 surface car parks (bearing Nos. 81 to 85). The super built area of 15,102 square feet is made up of 11,341 square feet of built area, 2,833 square feet of common area and 928 square feet of service area in the basement. Along with undivided 0.853% (percent) share, right, title and interest working out to 4,647 square feet in the Land as described in First Schedule.
Item 4:
All that piece and parcel of (i) 18,345 square feet of super built area, being the entire third floor in Phase IIA building in the project, MFAR Manyata Tech Park constructed on the Land, together with (ii) 12 Nos. of covered car parks (bearing Nos. 19 to 27 and 187 to 189) and 6 Nos. of surface car parks (bearing Nos. 86 to 91). The super built area of 18,345 square feet is made up of 13,776 square feet of built area, 3,441 square feet of common area and 1,128 square feet of service area in the basement. Along with an undivided 1.037% (percent) share, right, title and interest, working out to 5,645 square feet in the Land as described in First Schedule.
Item 5:
a. All that piece and parcel of (i) 14,872 square feet of super built area, being the entire fifth floor in Phase IIA building in the project, MFAR Manyata Tech Park constructed on the Land, together with (ii) 9 Nos. of covered car parks and 2 surface car parks. The super built area of 14,872 square feet is made up of 11,167 square feet of built area, 2,790 square feet of common area and 915 square feet of service area in the basement. Along with (an undivided 1.434% (percent) right, title and interest, working out to 7,808 square feet in the Land as described in First Schedule.
b. All that piece and parcel of Unit constructed on the Fourth (4) Floor of Wing 2A (Phase IIA), measuring 18,676 square feet of super built-up area constructed on the Land along with common area measuring 3,503 square feet and 12 covered car parks and 2 surface car parks and service area in the basement measuring 1,149 square feet, and altogether total super built up area 18,676 square feet. Along with the proportionate undivided right, title and interest in the Land as described in First Schedule, measuring 9,805 square feet being 1.801% of total area of the Land.
Item 6:
All that piece and parcel of 15,103 square feet of super built area, being the entire second floor, in Phase IIA building, in the project, MFAR Manyata Tech Park constructed on the Land, together with (ii) 10 Nos. of covered car parks and 4 surface car parks. The super built area of 15,103 square feet is made up of 11,341 square feet of built area, 2,833 square feet of common area and 929 square feet of service block and service area in the basement. Along with undivided 1.456% (percent) right, title and interest, working out to 7,930 square feet in the Land as described in First Schedule.

Date : 10-06-2026
Place : Bengaluru

Karthik B.M
J. Sagar Associates
Advocates & Solicitors
18th Floor, SKAV 909, No. 9/1, Residency Road, Richmond Circle
Bengaluru – 560 025, Ph. No: 080-4350 3612
Email : karthik.bm@jsalaw.com

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PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, Anasuyamma spouse of No. 13909548 Ex Sepoy Late Kanchagiri Govindappa Krishnappa resident of Bedavatti Bilavani, Soraba Talluku, Shimoga-577428 have changed my name Anasuya to Anasuyamma vide Affidavit dated 14 May 2026 before Notary Shimogaa Court

I, MOHAMMED Muzammil S/o Mohammed Iqbal residing at No. 58, 6th Cross, Narayanappa Block, Ramaswamy Palya, Benson Town, Bengaluru-560046 have changed my name to Mohammed Muzammil Iqbal vide affidavit dated 08/06/2026 before Meer Hassan, Notary, Bengaluru.

I, N Arun Kumar, S/o V Narayanamurthy, R/a No.76, Sri Lakshmi Venkateshwara Nilayam, 4th Floor, Boganahalli Main Road, Opp Parimala Trinity Apartments, Panathur, Bengaluru-560103 have changed my name to N Adhithya Arun vide affidavit dt: 05.06.2026 sworn before Notary Uday Kumar.K, B'luru.

Old Name: Chandravathi W/o Mallappa Gouda age Date of Birth : 01/01/1980 (46)year Home No:-#77 Konchappali Post Konchappli TQ Devadurga District Raichur Pin Code :- 584111 have Chaned my Name from : CHANDRAVATHI W/o. MALLAPPA GOUDA to New Name:- LALITHAMMA W/o. MALLAPPA GOUDA as per Affidavit No:- IN- KA82311399278786Y Date:- 16/02/ 2026 Issued By Notary Public Name :- Shukumuni Reddy Advocate Raichur Dist Notary (Govt of India) Reg NO :- 20461/2020 DEVADURGA DIST RAICHUR PIN CODE : 584111

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, KALYANI Kajeevashalli Nagaraj, W/o Ashish Kumar Patra, R/a No.67, Shree Krishna Niwas, 2nd Main, Kaveri Street, Nagappa Reddy Layout, Ramamurthy Nagar, Bengaluru-560016 have changed my name to Kalyani Khajihosahalli Nagaraj vide affidavit dt: 05.06.2026 sworn before Notary Uday Kumar.K, B'luru.

I, ARITA Mary Antony Philip, W/o Maria Ananda Ruban A, R/a No.13, 10th Cross Oil Mill Road, Hanumanthappa Road, Arvind Nagar, Lingarajapuram, Bengaluru-560033 have changed my name to P Arita Mary vide affidavit dt: 15.05.2026 sworn before Notary Uday Kumar.K, B'luru.

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TECHNICAL

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TENDERS

CHENNAI PORT AUTHORITY
Civil Engineering Department
No1, Rajaji salai, Chennai -600001.
Notice Inviting Request for Proposal (RFP)
Tender No.: T/MP4/15/2026/E
Chennai Port Authority invites Request for Proposal (RFP)through e-Procurement mode https://eprocure.gov.in/ from the interested and eligible Bidders for "Upgradation & Mechanization of existing Coastal Berths (CB-I & CB-II) at Chennai Port on Equip, Operate and Transfer (EOT) model through Public Private Partnership."
Date for downloading RFP Documents – 12.06.2026
Last Date for Online Bid Submission – 27.07.2026
For further details, please visit **www.chennaiport.gov.in** or **www.eprocure.gov.in**
CHIEF ENGINEER

BUILDING BLOCKS

How Babbage automated calculations with simple machines

Slow, error-prone calculations by hand were unavoidable in the early 19th century, yet even small mistakes could ruin the designs for buildings and the journeys of ships; Charles Babbage's ingenious machines were much more accurate, faster, and revolutionary

Vasudevan Mukunth

Modern computing is often effortless. You pick up a calculator or open the calculator app on your phone, and you are on your way in seconds. But getting here took humans several centuries from when they first tried to speed up computing. One particularly important passage in this history involved the English mathematician Charles Babbage, who found a way to speed up calculations using the movement of simple machines, creating the first ancestors of the modern computer.

What motivated Babbage?

If you had to calculate something in the early 19th century, you had to do it entirely by hand. Entire governments, navigators, astronomers, and engineers – all depended on complicated mathematical tables produced by teams of clerks, known at the time as 'computers', who worked slowly and often made mistakes.

In 1821, Babbage was frustrated and reportedly said he wished calculations could happen "by steam". Babbage went on to develop the difference engine, a large mechanical calculator designed to compute mathematical tables using a method called finite differences.

The machine consisted of columns of brass wheels, each engraved with the digits from 0 to 9. The wheels physically added value as they were rotated using a hand crank and gears. The machine considerably reduced the number of mistakes. The difference engine was thus a specialised calculator that was fast and efficient at one class of problems.

What were mathematical tables?

The mathematical table was a pre-computed table of numbers that experts could refer to repeatedly in their practice. For instance, before digital calculators, an engineer would often convert multiplication into an addition problem using logarithms. So 247 x 83 could be solved by looking up the logarithms of both numbers, adding them, then converting back to the inverse value.

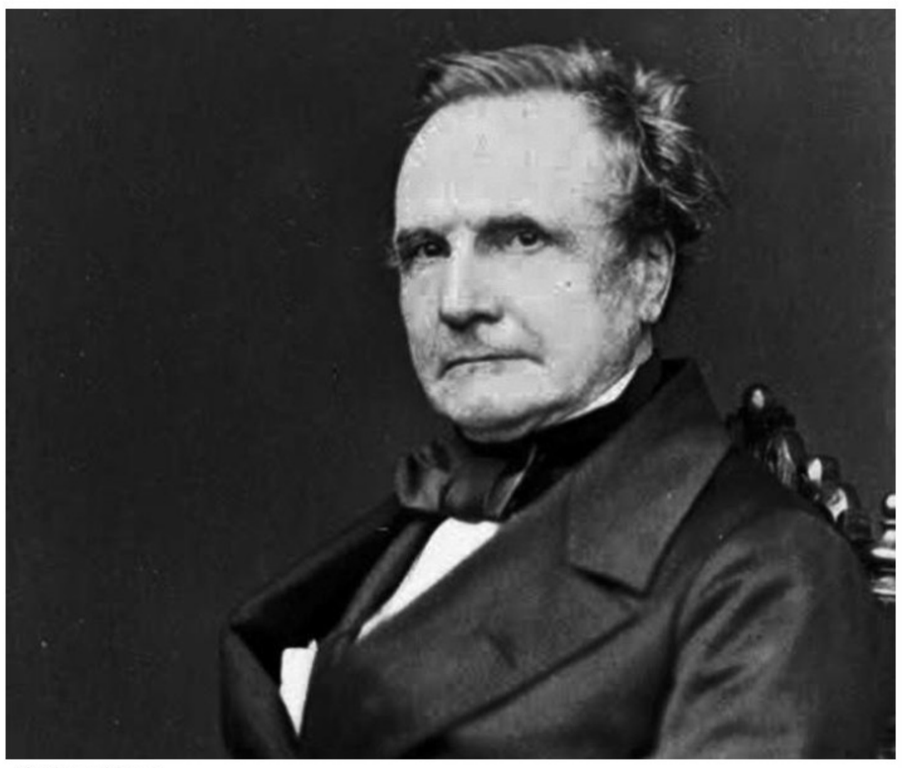
Similarly, the tables also provided the values of trigonometric functions (used in architecture and civil engineering), astronomical tables (to predict the positions of celestial bodies), actuarial tables (for insurance and taxation), and polynomial tables (values of complicated functions used in science).

The tables often repeatedly evaluated the values of common functions at regular intervals. For example, if $f(x) = x^3$, then the tables would provide the values of f(x) at x = 1, 2, 3, 4, ..., i.e. 1, 8, 27, 64, ... Similarly, a table would show the values of a trigonometric sine function for every tenth of a degree: 10°, 10.1°, 10.2°, ... corresponding to 0.1736, 0.1754, 0.1771, ...

Aside from computers making mistakes during the calculation itself, inaccuracies also crept up during copying and typesetting. And a single mistake could be ruinous.

What is the method of finite differences?

The method of finite differences simplifies many of these operations to simpler problems, which the difference engine could then automate.



Charles Babbage.

Say a table needs to evaluate the function $f(x) = x^2$. So for x = 1, 2, 3, ..., f(x) = 1, 4, 9, ... Now look at the differences between successive values: 3 (4 - 1), 5 (9 - 4), 7 (16 - 9), 9 (25 - 16), ... Then look at the second differences, i.e., the difference between the differences: 2 (5 - 3), 2 (7 - 5), 2 (9 - 7), ...

That the second difference is a constant implies the whole table can be generated using just addition.

The difference engine started with three numbers loaded into separate columns of wheels: the starting value, 1; the first difference, 3; and the second difference, 2. When you crank the wheels, they add the second difference to the first difference: 3 + 2 = 5, and then the updated first difference to the current value: 1 + 5 = 6.

At the end of turn 1:

- Updated first difference: 5
- Updated value: 4

And at the end of turn 2:

- Updated first difference: 5 + 2 = 7
- Updated value: 4 + 5 = 9

And at the end of turn 3:

- Updated first difference: 7 + 2 = 9
- Updated value: 9 + 7 = 16

And so on. Thus the difference engine produced: 1, 4, 9, 16, 25, ...

How did the wheels 'do' all this?

Imagine one vertical column of wheels representing a decimal number: the top wheel displays the thousands, the second wheel the hundreds, the third wheel the tens, and the fourth wheel the ones. Each wheel has the digits 0-9 engraved on its edge.

Suppose the machine stored the number 247. The wheels would be positioned so that the thousands wheel points to 0, the hundreds wheel points to 2, the tens wheel points to 4, and the ones wheel points to 7.

To add numbers, the machine would physically rotate the wheels. Suppose you want to perform the operation 247 + 5. When cranked the gears, they would turn the ones wheel forward by five positions: 7, 8, 9, 0, 1, 2. Since going from 9 to 0 means crossing a decimal boundary, the analytical engine has to carry the 1 – which it does using a special mechanism that nudges the tens wheel forward one step: from 4 to 5.

So the machine displays 252.

What happened to the difference engine?

Babbage never finished building a full-scale version of his Difference Engine No. 1. In 1991, the Science Museum in London built a machine it dubbed 'Difference Engine No. 2' based on Babbage's drawings in 1846-1849. It weighed five tonnes, contained 8,000 parts, and worked correctly, vindicating Babbage's intuition.

That said, the reasons work on Difference Engine No. 1 stalled are pertinent. Foremost, Babbage fell out with his chief engineer Joseph Clement over Clement's compensation and who owned the tools and drawings. The government also cut off funding in 1842, by when Babbage had spent more than GBP 17,000, because it believed there was no end in sight to his expenses and because, from 1834 onwards, Babbage had been paying more attention to a new device called the analytical engine.

What is the analytical engine?

It was conceived as a general purpose programmable machine – the direct ancestor of the modern computer. It had four components: the mill (like the modern CPU), which performed basic mathematical operations like addition and subtraction; the store (memory), capable of holding up to 1,000 numbers each 50 digits long on wheels; the reader (input), consisting of punched cards then used in Jacquard looms of the textile industry; and the printer (output), a mechanism to automatically stamp the results out on metal plates.

The analytical engine was not just advanced for its time: it was practically revolutionary because it was (i) programmable – it could receive instructions and solve different problems – and (ii) it had conditional branching, meaning it could make logical decisions like "do A if B". It could also repeat particular steps.

What did the punched cards do?

In a Jacquard loom, users would punch holes into cards to control the weaving pattern. One specific pattern of holes which threads to raise or lower, for example. So if Babbage wanted to calculate (7 + 5) x 3, he would load the numbers into the store – as in the difference engine – and then place cards in the machine with these instructions:

- Put 7 in storage location A
- Put 5 in storage location B
- Put 3 in storage location C

Then, another sequence of punched cards would instruct the mill:

- Add A and B
- Store result in D

Then the machine would compute:

7 + 5 = 12

Now D = 12.

Yet another set of punched cards might say:

- Multiply D by C
- Store result in E

So the analytical engine would compute:

12 x 3 = 36

A final card would say 'Print E', so the engine would stamp out:

36

The same analytical engine could solve a different problem; Babbage just had to change the order of the punched cards.

More advanced sequences of cards could also instruct the analytical engine to repeat some operation multiple times (looping) and execute conditional branching. For example, to perform division by repeated subtraction, the analytical engine would have to subtract the divisor from the number, and repeat that operation if the result is positive or stop if the result is negative.

(Aside: The German-American inventor Herman Hollerith also used punched cards to automate the U.S. Census in the 1890s and founded the company that was a piece of what would become IBM. However, there is no evidence he was inspired by Babbage's choice.)

What happened to the analytical engine?

All this said, Babbage could not complete a full-scale analytical engine either. Due to his experiences with the Difference Engine No. 1, the analytical engine never attracted any serious funding. In fact, Babbage spent the rest of his life without any state support for his designs.

His efforts were not for nothing, however. His collaborator Ada Lovelace recognised an idea that most of her contemporaries missed: if a machine could manipulate numbers, and if those numbers could represent other data-types like letters, musical notes or images, the analytical engine could effectively be a universal symbol processor. This is like how today Spotify represents music as numbers, Photoshop represents colours as numbers, large language models represent words as numbers, and so on.

Babbage's designs were the ancestors of modern computers in the same way the first cells are ancestors of modern humans: they were important foundations that proved something was possible but there are also significant differences between them. Babbage helped the world realise that machines could perform different mathematical functions using the same hardware.

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

"Welcome back. How was your trip to Goa?"

"Oh, it was so tiresome. I couldn't believe the amount of....."

".....tiresome or tiring?"

"What's the difference between the two?"

"When you say that something is tiresome, it means that it is annoying, tedious, or troublesome."

"Annoying or troublesome, eh? Sounds like Sujatha to me!"

"Why do you always pick on Sujatha? Here's an example with 'tiresome'.

I find most of Dravid's jokes tiresome."

"You are not the only one, I can assure you. How about this example?

I went to the club yesterday and the manager told me that he had misplaced my application form. So I had to go through the tiresome process of filling out another one."

"That's a good example. My next door neighbour is trying to sell his car. He says that it's tiresome business."

"I am sure it is these days. But tell me, what about 'tiring'? Is it related to 'tired'?"

"It certainly is. When you say that something is 'tiring' it means it is exhausting. For example, being the host of a television programme can be very tiring."

"My friend asked me to go through his assignment. It was tiring. I can now appreciate the amount of work that teachers have to put in while grading assignments."

"So, was your trip 'tiresome' or 'tiring'?"

"'Tiring, I guess. Met a lot of interesting people, though. The people at the hotel were very friendly, specially the waiters."

"Especially."

"What?"

"The people were friendly, especially the waiters."

"What's the difference between 'specially' and 'especially'?"

"Well, one normally uses the word, 'specially' when one has a single purpose in mind."

"In other words, when something is done for a particular purpose. Is that what you mean?"

"That's right! You have a single purpose in mind."

"When do you use 'especially' then?"

"It is normally used when you want to mean 'particularly'. For example, Kodaikanal is crowded, especially during the summer."

"The students in our class, especially the girls, are very hard working."

"Girls in general tend to work much harder than boys."

"I know. The girls in my class are always surfing the Net trying to find new material. Talking about the Net, I came across a search engine called "Google". Does the word 'google' mean anything?..."

"...I don't know about the word 'google', but I came across the word 'googol' recently."

"Googol! What does it mean?"

"I understand it is a term used in mathematics. It means ten to the power of hundred."

"In other words, a 'googol' is ten followed by a hundred zeros?"

"I guess you could say that. Did you know that a nine-year-old boy invented the word. It was coined by the nine year old nephew of a mathematician named Milton Sirotta."

"The word sure sounds like something that a kid would come up with."

Published in The Hindu on November 28, 2000

Word of the day

Transient:
lasting for only a short time

Synonyms: temporary, brief, passing

Usage: *The delay in bus service was transient*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/transient

International Phonetic Alphabet: /trænziənt/

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

The 2026 French Open was a Grand Slam tennis tournament held at the Stade Roland Garros in Paris, France, from May 24 to June 7. A quiz on the tournament

Sindhu Nagaraj

QUESTION 1

Let's start with an easy question. Alexander Zverev defeated which Italian player in five sets for his first major title in his fourth final?

QUESTION 2

Zverev, upon winning the final, became the first German to win a men's major singles championship since _____ in 1996. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 3

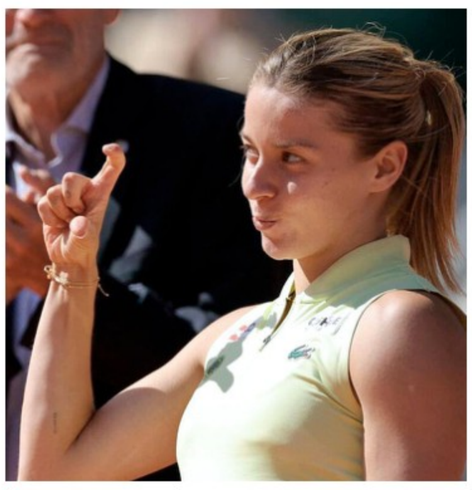
Starting at the 2026 French Open, the Grand Slams permitted the use of this object, allowing players access to a broader range of performance-related information during competition. What is it?

QUESTION 4

Who among the champions from last year successfully defended their titles?

QUESTION 5

Which male tennis player, who was also the 2015 champion, competed in his 21st and final appearance at Roland-Garros in 2026?



Visual Question:
Identify this player. What is the feat she achieved in this edition?

Questions and Answers in the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Which nineteenth-century movement preceded Birsa's uprising and influenced the political climate in Chotanagpur? **Ans: The Sardari Larai (Sardar Movement)**
The Munda uprising led by Birsa Munda at the turn of the twentieth century is popularly known by what term, meaning "Great Tumult"? **Ans: Ulgulan**
What slogan associated with Birsa Munda called for the end of British rule? **Ans: "Abua Raj ete jana, Maharani raj tundu jana" ("Let our rule come, let the Queen's rule go")**
Birsa Munda's religious teachings led to the emergence of a distinct faith community known by what name? **Ans: Birsait**
Birsa Munda died in Ranchi Jail in 1900. What was the official cause of death recorded by the British authorities? **Ans: Cholera**
Visual: This famous photograph of Birsa Munda was reproduced in which pioneering ethnographic work by Sarat Chandra Roy? **Ans: The Mundas and Their Country (1912)**
Early Birds: K.N. Viswanathan | Jose Jogi | Lalchand Bhutani | Sunil Madhavan | C. Saravanan

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Technician electrocuted

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 28-year-old technician died after suffering an electric shock while carrying out maintenance work on a power line in Electronics City recently.

The deceased was identified as Bandaru Yesudasu, a native of Andhra Pradesh. He arrived in Bengaluru a week ago and was working with a private company engaged in the maintenance of Bescom infrastructure.

Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, JUN. 10	
RISE 05:53	SET 18:45
RISE 01:22	SET 13:57
THURSDAY, JUN. 11	
RISE 05:53	SET 18:46
RISE 02:03	SET 14:53
FRIDAY, JUN. 12	
RISE 05:53	SET 18:46
RISE 02:49	SET 15:53

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	15
Mysuru	31	20
Bengaluru	30	21

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be slight warm. Night will be pleasant. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower.

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THE HINDU
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The explosive materials found in a granite quarry owned by Venkateshwara Granite Crusher at Yerapanahalli on the outskirts of Bengaluru, on June 4. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

5 booked for illegal storage and use of explosives at quarry

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Avalahalli police have registered a case against five persons for allegedly storing and using explosive materials without valid permission at a granite quarry in Yerapanahalli village on the outskirts of Bengaluru.

According to the complaint filed by head constable Shivu M., who was on special night patrol duty along with other personnel, on June 4, the police received information from local residents that explosives were being illegally stored and used for blasting operations at a granite quarry owned by Venkateshwara Granite Crusher.

The police went to the spot around 4 a.m. They saw blasting operations being carried out using explosive substances and detonators. During questioning, workers, identified as Vikas, Thouhid, and Sandeep, claimed that quarry owner Venkataramana Reddy and 'crusher manager' Lokesh Reddy had arranged the explosives to blast rocks.

The police said the accused failed to produce any licence or authorisation from the competent authority for possessing, storing or using the explosives. The police seized detonators and explosive materials from the quarry.

The police had launched a crackdown on illegal explosives after they found a box containing explosive materials on the route of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's convoy in Bengaluru on May 10.

On June 3, the police registered a case against nine persons for allegedly carrying out blasts without proper permission and safety measures at a stone quarry in Thammanayakanahalli in Anekal taluk.

The police questioned workers and supervisors at the quarry, and identified the persons involved.

Investigators were informed that the explosives were allegedly procured from a supplier in Tamil Nadu. The Anekal police booked nine persons. Further investigation is under way

HAL files cheating, forgery case against Hyderabad supplier

It alleges the company submitted 199 forged test reports in connection with the supply of parts for the LCA Tejas Mk1A programme

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has lodged a cheating and forgery complaint against a Hyderabad-based aerospace components supplier, alleging the company submitted 199 forged test reports in connection with the supply of parts for the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas Mk1A programme.

Based on a complaint filed by Ranu Gupta, Deputy General Manager, Aircraft Division, HAL, last Tuesday the HAL police registered a case against M. Sivarama Prasad, CEO of M/s Tec Aero Devices.

According to the complaint, HAL had issued 18 purchase orders to Tec Aero Devices between March 2022 and September 2023 for the supply of various components required for the Tejas Mk1A programme. As per procurement conditions, the supplier was required to furnish material test certificates, inspection reports, and other supporting documents before bulk supplies could be accepted.

HAL alleged that the company submitted 199 test reports covering 172 components. During quality control checks, HAL sought original reports relating to tensile strength, hardness, break load, shear, non-destructive testing (NDT), microstructure, and salt spray tests. However, the supplier allegedly failed to produce the original documents.

Subsequently, Tec Aero Devices submitted a letter dated November 22, 2023, attributing two test reports to Hyderabad-based Axis Inspection Solutions. To verify the authenticity of the documents, HAL conducted an audit at Axis Inspection Solutions on November 29, 2023.

During the audit, Axis Inspection Solutions reportedly informed HAL that none of the 199 reports had been issued by the company. Axis further alleged that its name and signatures had been misused to create fabricated reports. HAL concluded that the reports submitted by Tec Aero Devices between February and September 2023 were forged.

Following the findings, the public sector aerospace manufacturer issued a show-cause notice and later debarred Tec Aero Devices from doing business with HAL for three years, until March 10, 2027.

The complaint states that no payments have been released by HAL to the firm in connection with the disputed supplies. After internal deliberations and legal consultations, HAL initiated criminal proceedings against the company and its CEO.

A case has been registered and probe is on.

In response to queries from *The Hindu*, the firm's CEO, Prasad, said he is unaware of the complaint. He confirmed that the company was debarred by HAL in March 2024 for three years on charges of submitting fake lab certificates. Attributing it to an employee, he said the company had submitted multiple representations to HAL, including one a few weeks ago, seeking removal of the debarment.

(With inputs from the Hyderabad bureau)

A file photo of a Tejas Light Combat Aircraft.

'Prepare action plan to improve roads, junctions'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The city will have to brace for more roadworks during the monsoon, as the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has directed municipal corporations to prepare an action plan for improving roads and heavily congested junctions. The works will be undertaken using the ₹2,000 crore fund announced by Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar after assuming office last week. Documents accessed by *The Hindu* show that the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) will bear 50% of the announced amount, while the remaining share will be provided by the State government.

While the announcement has been welcomed, citizens have pointed to the large-scale digging and civic works currently under way across the city, highlighting shortcomings in the planning of civic agencies. Civic body officials attributed the delays to the West Asia crisis and noted that several works are in their final stages.

Documents noted that works undertaken using the ₹2,000 crore fund must not fall under the Defect Liability Period (DLP), indicating that the spending is likely to be directed towards short-term relief measures.

However, the GBA has directed corporations to review all complaints submitted by citizens and prioritise works related to those grievances.

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Under the aegis of Ministry of External Affairs, GoI

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NIT No.: NU/Engg(Civil)/2026-27/01
LAST DATE OF BID SUBMISSION EXTENDED UP TO 11:00 AM on 25.06.2026

Nalanda University, an avant-garde International University, invites online e-Tenders for **"CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT WORKS OF 38 STUDENT HOSTEL BUILDINGS AT NALANDA UNIVERSITY, RAJGIR, BIHAR."**

The detailed NIT along with terms & conditions for application can be downloaded from the Nalanda University's official website: https://nalandauniv.edu.in/tenders/, https://nalandauniv.ewizard.in/ & https://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app

For any further updates please visit regularly NU Tender portal https://nalandauniv.edu.in/tenders/

The 2nd Pre-bid meeting is scheduled in online / physical mode on 13.06.2026 at 11:00 AM onwards. Online meeting link shall be uploaded in https://nalandauniv.edu.in/tenders/

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Liquor outlets serving minors risk licence cancellation, DG&IGP warns

The circular comes a day after Home Minister Priyank Kharge directed the police to crack down on underage drinking

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Liquor-serving establishments found serving alcohol to minors could face suspension or cancellation of licences, hefty penalties, and criminal prosecution, Director-General and Inspector-General of Police M.A. Saleem warned on Tuesday while issuing a detailed circular mandating stricter enforcement of age-verification norms across Karnataka.

The circular, issued a day after Home Minister Priyank Kharge directed the police to crack down on underage drinking, requires pubs, breweries, bars, clubs, lounges, restaurants, and all liquor-serving outlets to strictly verify the age of patrons before granting entry or serving alcohol.

The police have been instructed to enforce a "No ID, No Entry" policy across the State.

The police have been instructed to enforce a "No ID, No Entry" policy across the State. FILE PHOTO

Citing provisions of the Karnataka Excise Act and related rules, the DGP reiterated that liquor cannot be sold or supplied to persons below 21 years of age.

The circular also prohibits the sale of alcohol to persons who are mentally unsound, those known or believed to be intoxicated, individuals suspected of involvement in riots or breaches of public peace, and excise officials, police personnel, railway employees and motor-bus drivers while on duty or in uniform.

Under the new guidelines, establishments must verify age through government-issued identity documents such as Aadhaar, voter ID, passport, driving licence or PAN card before allowing entry and before serving alcohol.

Copies of the documents may be retained for future verification.

To strengthen enforcement, the police have directed all liquor-serving establishments to ensure CCTV cameras at entry points remain functional and preserve footage for at least one month for scrutiny during inspections and investigations.

Regular inspections and surveillance have also been ordered.

The circular comes amid concerns over increasing consumption of alcohol and tobacco among adolescents.

Police units have been asked to work with schools, colleges, parents, resident welfare associations and citizen groups to prevent minors from accessing alcohol, tobacco and narcotic substances. Awareness campaigns through traditional and social media will also be launched.

All police commissioners, range inspectors-general, and district superintendents of police have been directed to submit reports on violations detected and action taken within seven days of receiving the circular.

People can clear pending e-challans through apps, police stations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Vehicle owners can check their pending traffic e-challans and make payments through the Karnataka State Police (KSP) app, BTP ASTraM app, the nearest traffic police station, Traffic Management Centre, and KarnatakaOne/BangaloreOne portals to avail themselves of the special concession scheme announced by the Karnataka government.

According to a release, the government has allowed motorists to settle pending traffic violation cases by paying only 50% of the outstanding fine amount between June 21 and July 10. According to the G.O. issued on Thursday, the concession applies to all unpaid traffic e-challans issued by the police before May 2026.

Farmer attempts to end life near Vidhana Soudha over alleged delay in highway land compensation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A farmer from Chikkamagaluru allegedly attempted suicide near Vidhana Soudha on Tuesday afternoon, claiming that prolonged delays in compensation for land acquired for a National Highway project had pushed him into severe financial and mental distress.

The incident occurred around 12.45 p.m. when T.N. Vishukumar, a farmer and sandalwood cultivator from Haliyur village in Tarikere taluk, allegedly attempted to take his life as a form of protest. However, police personnel deployed for security intervened immediately, prevented the attempt, and detained him.

The police said Vishukumar alleged that 1.5 acres of his land was acquired by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) in 2016 for a highway project. He claimed that compensation for the acquired land and the sandalwood trees growing on it was initially estimated at around ₹62 crore. However, he alleged that a valuation report prepared by the Forest Department assessed the value at only ₹62 lakh, drastically reducing the compensation payable to him. In February this year, he was detained by Vidhana Soudha police after allegedly chopping branches of a sandalwood tree outside Vidhana Soudha to draw attention to his demand.

(If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to these 24/7 helplines: KIRAN at 1800-599-0019 or Arogya Sahayavani at 104 for help.)

Environment Day observed

BENGALURU: The Jayantian Extension Service of Kristu Jayanti (Deemed to be University) in association with the NSS, CSS, and theGBA - Bengaluru East City Corporation, organised a tree plantation programme on the occasion of World Environment Day on June 5.

PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION, KOPPAL
Office of the Executive Engineer, Jawahar Road, Koppal - 583 231,
E-mail : eepredkpl@gmail.com

No:EE:PRED:DN:KPL:/DB/TENDER/2026-27 / 499 Date: 08-06-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of The Governor of Karnataka, Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Koppal, invites item rates tender through kppp one / two cover systems, from eligible PWD and PRE Department registered contractors through Standard Bid Document KW-1,2,3 & 4, under head of account 2025-26 CMIDP,2024-25 Flood,2023-24/2024-25 SCP/TSP, & Other heads in different talukas of Koppal district . This scheme is fully funded by the Government of Karnataka . For more information contact above the office. Eligible contractors participate online by entering into kppp portal. http//kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal.

General instructions : 1) Contractors participate in all tenders online only. 2)Pre-qualification documents should be uploaded by scanning all certificates & other concerned documents online only. 3) Pre-requisite EMD have to be pay online as per mentioned in eproc-portal. For more information, contractors need to consult to below signed official, officer, contractors may get the information by going through. http//kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal.This notified works can be downloaded in http//kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal .

1) CONSTRUCTION OF DAMBAR ROAD FROM CHELLUR VILLAGE TO SOMANAL CAMP VILLAGE IN KARATAGI TALUKA (CAT II A) CALL-2 IND 24597 APT 5773311.51EMD 58000.00 6 Months 2) CONSTRUCTION OF DAMBAR ROAD FROM HULAKIHAL CAMP TO JURATAGI VILLAGE IN KARATAGI TALUKA (SC CATEGORY) CALL-2 IND 24585 APT 7128559.1 EMD 72000.00 6 Months 3) IMPROVEMENTS OF ROAD FROM BENCHAMATTI TO KORADAKERA VILLAGE IN KUSHTAGI TALUKA IND 25972. APT 83.39 LAKS EMD 167000.00 6 Months. 4)IMPROVEMENTS OF ROAD FROM VAKKANADURGA TO TALUKA BORDER (GIDDANAYAKANAHAL) VILLAGE(KM0.00 TO KM 1.50) IN KUSHTAGI TALUKA IND 25971. APT 83.42 LAKS EMD 167000.00 6 Months.

1) Tender Processing Fees: As per E-Procurement 2) Download of Schedule-B in Eproc Portal: From 10.06.2026 time after 10.00 AM upto 24.06.2026 time 16.00 Hours. 3) Tender Receipt last dates: From 10.06.2026 time 11.00 AM upto 24.06.2026 Time 16.30 hrs 4) Technical Bid open date and time (Both Technical & Financial bids are opened as same date for KW 1 & KW 2 ,KW-3 Works: 25-06-2026 in office hours. 5) Financial Bid open date and time: For KW 4 After getting Technical approval from competent authority, bid will be opened.

Note: The undersigned reserves the right to accept any or reject any of the tenders at any stage without assigning the reasons.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
P.R.E. Division, Koppal.

DIPR/Koppal/145/Manipal/2026-27

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Assistant Conservator of Forests,
9th Cross, Jayanagara 2nd Block, Bengaluru - 560011.

No: ACF/BSCC/TENDER/PR/03/2026-27 Date: 08-06-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Assistant Conservator of Forests, BSCC, Bengaluru invites Service Tender from eligible Contractors registered in CPWD / KPWD / Forest / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the Services detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Mobile Hydraulic Crane 35 T Capacity for Removal of Tree / Branches to Jayanagara Assembly Constituency for Supporting Tree Canopy Management During the year 2026-27. **(153 Days) - Estimated Amount (in Rs.): 26,74,440/-, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 53,489/-**
2	Mobile Hydraulic Crane 35 T Capacity for Removal of Tree / Branches to Padmanabhanagara Assembly Constituency for Supporting Tree Canopy Management During the year 2026-27. **(153 Days) - Estimated Amount (in Rs.): 26,74,440/-, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 53,489/-**
3	Mobile Hydraulic Crane 35 T Capacity for Removal of Tree / Branches to Bengaluru South Assembly Constituency for Supporting Tree Canopy Management During the year 2026-27. **(153 Days) - Estimated Amount (in Rs.): 26,74,440/-, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 53,489/-**
4	Mobile Hydraulic Crane 35 T Capacity for Removal of Tree / Branches to BTM Layout (Ward No. 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44) Assembly Constituency for Supporting Tree Canopy Management During the year 2026-27. **(153 Days) - Estimated Amount (in Rs.): 26,74,440/-, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 53,489/-**
5	Mobile Hydraulic Crane 35 T Capacity for Removal of Tree / Branches to BTM Layout (Ward No. 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51) Assembly Constituency for Supporting Tree Canopy Management During the year 2026-27. **(153 Days) - Estimated Amount (in Rs.): 26,74,440/-, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 53,489/-**
6	Mobile Hydraulic Crane 35 T Capacity for Removal of Tree / Branches to Bommanahalli Assembly Constituency for Supporting Tree Canopy Management During the year 2026-27. **(153 Days) - Estimated Amount (in Rs.): 26,74,440/-, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 53,489/-**

Calendar of Events: 1) RFP documents may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 11-06-2026. 2)** Last Date and Time for Uploading Online Queries in KPP Portal is **15-06-2026 upto 5.00 PM. 3)** Last Date and Time for Uploading of RFP in KPP Portal is **20-06-2026 upto 5.00 PM. 4)** Date and Time of Online Opening of RFP Applications in KPP Portal is **22-06-2026 at 5.10 PM. 5)** Date and Time of Online Financial Opening of Tender: **When Approval of Technical Bid. 6)** Place of Opening of RFP: **Online at Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. 7)** Address for Communication: **Office of the Assistant Conservator of Forests, BSCC, 9th Cross, Jayanagara 2nd Block, Palike Building, Bengaluru - 560011, E-mail: acfbbmpsouth@yahoo.co.in, Contact No: 7019464699.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests,
Bengaluru South City Corporation.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No.SEE/Tr(Op)/Circle-South/EE(O)/JE-1/F-393(4)/26-27/1078-83 Date:08.06.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal only)

KPTCL invites tender against Bid Enquiry No. for the following work.

KPTCL/SEE/Tr(Op)/Cir-South/EE(O)/AEE-2/JE-1/25-26/EPR-23 Call-2 Dt: 26.02.2026 for "Design, Manufacturing Testing, and Supply of 66KV Class Potential Transformers (0.2 Accuracy), 31.5KA rating of ratio 66KV/√3/110V/√3-110V/√3-110V/√3 (with Marshalling Boxes and without Mounting Structures) conforming to KPTCL Technical Specifications F.O.R.D at stores / Site basis, including insurance, transportation and unloading for the use at various sub-stations coming under Transmission (Operations) Circle-South, KPTCL, Bengaluru".

The bids will be received through KPP Portal only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tender can be obtained by logging onto KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karanataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or KPPP website **https://kppp. karnataka.gov.in** or **on or after 10.06.2026.** Further details can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, (Elec.),
Transmission (Operation) Circle-South KPTCL,
Ground Floor, Office Complex, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Smt. RAHAMATHUNNISA.K wife of Mr. SIRAJATHULLA KHAN aged about 70 years residing at 1st Floor bearing New No.5 Old No. 20(A) (Old No.10) situated at 5th cross Ex-Servicemen Colony Dinnur Main Road R.T.Nagar Bangalore -560032 has purchased under mentioned residential immovable property from Mrs. BILQUIES BANU wife of Mr. MOHAMMED HASHIM ASSARMATTA along with her legal representatives vide sale deed No. GAN-1-02019-2012-13 book No.1 CD NO.GAND141 dated 21.9.2012 registered at the office of the senior sub registrar Gandhinagar Bangalore.

That my client after purchase of the under mentioned schedule property have got entered her name in revenue records of BBMP/GBA and paying up to date tax vide PID No. 1005619040. With all validity of names and schedule of the under mentioned property.

That my client at the time of the registration of the under mentioned schedule property the name of the vendor has been mentioned as BILQUIES BANU instead of BILQUIES. The BILQUIES BANU and The BILQUIES are one and the same person vide aadhaar No. 2378 2911 4744.

That similarly in the said sale deed the name of the purchaser has been mentioned as Mrs. RAHMATHUNNISA.K. However this is a typographical mistake the RAHMATHUNNISA.K shall be read as RAHAMATHUNNISA.K who is one and the same person vide aadhaar no. 3705 9894 8346

That prior to registration of the under mentioned schedule property in the name of my client the sale deed of my vendor bearing no. 1171 /1995-96 of book 1, page 66-70 volume 4904 dated 03-07-1995, volume 4904 registered in the office of the sub registrar Gandhinagar Bangalore is misplaced for which police complaint is also lodged and paper publication is also made dated 14-02-2010 at HINDU and UDYAVANI newspapers.

That after having not received any objection or claim my client has purchased the under mentioned schedule property

That my client is inclined to alienate the under mentioned schedule property in favour of the prospective purchasers and enjoying physical possession of the under mentioned schedule property and paying up to date tax by my client.

That anybody having any right, claim, interest or any other clarification/objection in respect of the names of the vendor and the purchaser may file their objection or any other claim within 15 days before the under mentioned address. Failing to do so my client will proceed to alienate and also to deal the under mentioned schedule property in whatever manner it deems fit by my client

SAFINAZ, Advocate,
No. 28, 1st cross, Modi Garden, J.C Nagar post, Bangalore - 560006,
Contact No. 9886780477

REGIONAL CANCER CENTRE
MEDICAL COLLEGE PO, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM-11
Phone: 0471 2522278

No. RCC/462/2022-ADMN-2 Dated. 29/05/2026

Applications are invited for the post of **Nuclear Medicine Technologist** on contract basis in Nuclear Medicine Division of Regional Cancer Centre, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India. Last date of receipt of application 22/06/2026.

For more details please visit our
Website: **www.rcctvm.gov.in**

D3/350/2026/I&PRD Sd/- DIRECTOR

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer KNNL, GRBCC Div No. 2,
Hidkal Dam Office Tel. No. 08333-2200119 /
Fax No. 08333-263405 / e-mail: eegrbc2@gmail.com

No.: EE/KNNL/GRBCC-2/DB/TND/2026-27/454 Dated:08-06-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement system only)

In the year 2026-27, tender announcement for 03 No. Dam related works has been issued under this division office. The details are as follows.(Estimate Amount Rs. 16.85 to 396.38 Lakhs) 1) Indent No.4456 ,4310 & 4401 2) Govt of Karnataka Website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Portal Tender Documents Viewed from Date:08-06-2026. 2)Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders Date:16-06-2026 Time:17.30 Hrs 3) Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid/tender:18-06-2026 Time:10.30 Hrs.

Further any information :Note:Here after any change with reference to this Notification will be Notified in https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Portl Only.

Sd/-Executive Engineer,
KNNL GRBCC Div No.2 Hidkal Dam

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-395/KSMCA/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
(www.kpwd.gov.in)

Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Bangalore Division,
2nd Floor, PWD Annexure Building, K.R. Circle, Bangalore - 01
Telephone No. 080-22133370, Email ID: eepwdbngdn@yahoo.com
E-Portal : https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home

Short Term Tender Notification No. 07/2026-27 DATED: 09.06.2026

Item-rate tenders, for the work in PWD, No.1 South and Devanahalli Sub Division under this office noted below, are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka in accordance with Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement rules 2000 and as per Standard Tender Documents for procurement of works from the contractors registered in K.P.W.D. as per KPPP.

Tender Notification are Published for 05 Works **(Rs. 350.00 to 990.00 Lakhs)** Details of the tender works can be obtained from the above Office during office hours on working days. EMD & Tender processing fees are mentioned in KPP portal.

1.Tenders must be submitted online through KPP portal on or before **4.30 PM on Dated: 16.06.2026**

2.The opening of tenders through KPP portal on Dated: **17.06.2026 at 5.00 PM** or further date and time will be Intimate. For more details contact this office.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PWD, Bangalore Division, Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/1082/Zen/2026-27

Government of Karnataka
(PWD Division Raichur)
Executive Engineer
Public works department division Raichur
Telephone No. : 08532-225778
THESE WORKS ARE CATEGORY WISE CONTRACTORS

PWD/RDN/TS-4/TN/2026-27/865 Date: 27-05-2026

Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Short Term Tender Notification -(KW- 1, 2,3 & 4)

1) Notification No & Date: PWD/RDN/TS-4/TN/2026-27/865 Date: 27-05-2026 **2)Name of work's:**Raichur District Total 26 work's Raichur, Manvi, Deodurga, Lingasugur & Sindhanur taluk Different types of Buildings, Bridges & Road works. **3)Amount of works:** Min Rs. 788900.00 Max Rs. 50846737.00 4) **EMD Amount** : Min Rs. 10700.00 Max Rs. 762701.00 **5) Period (including Manson):** Min 1 (One) Month Max 11 (Eleven) Months 6) **Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tender:** 16/06/2026 16:00:00 **7) Date and Time for Opening of Tender:** 17/06/2026 16:30:00

Due to any reasons dates, retender any other changes will be notified in the KPPP Portal only No separate paper notification will be issued & For More details visit this website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/

Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
PWD Division, RAICHUR.

DIP/RCR/105/KSMCA/107/2026-27

GREATER BENGALURU AUTHORITY
Office of the Executive Engineer-4,
Project Implementation Unit, 9th Floor, Jayanagara Shopping Complex, 4th Block, Jayanagara, Bengaluru - 560011.

No: EE-4/GBA/PIU/TEND/01/2026-27 Date: 09-06-2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) - (SHORT TERM)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal Only)

The Executive Engineer-4, Project Implementation Unit, GBA, Bengaluru invites Tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the Construction of work detailed below.

(Standard Tender Document - KW-4)

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Expansion / Widening of Narrow Water Vents for Construction of Retaining Walls, 'U' Drains, Box Drains and Culverts / Bridges to Strom Water Drains at Various Locations in Dasarahalli Constituency of Dasarahalli Zone. **"Package DHZ-01" (Project No. 16, 17, 18 & 19). Approximated Amount of Work (Rs. in Lakhs): 178.68, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 2,68,100/-**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender Document may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 10-06-2026. 2)** Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **15-06-2026 at 15.00 Hours in the Office of the Executive Engineer-4, Project Implementation Unit, GBA, 9th Floor, Jayanagara Shopping Complex, 4th Block, Jayanagara, Bengaluru - 560011. 3)** Last Date for Receipt of Tenders: **18-06-2026 upto 16.00 Hours. 4)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid: **19-06-2026 at 16.30 Hours or next working day. 5)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **Will be intimated to Technically Qualified Contractor Successful Bidder in KPP Portal.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer-4,
Project Implementation Unit, GBA.

Delay in final seat matrix pushes CET counselling dates

In the absence of a Higher Education Minister, the final engineering seat matrix and fee must be approved by the Chief Minister, say sources in the Higher Education Department

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Delay in receiving the final seat matrix of engineering courses has forced the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) to postpone the Common Entrance Test (CET) counselling schedule for the year 2026-27.

The KEA had planned to commence the seat counselling process for engineering and other professional courses from June 10. However, as there is a delay in receiving the final seat matrix from the Higher Education Department, the counselling schedule has been postponed by three days.

Sources in the Higher Education Department informed that in absence of a Higher Education Minister, the final seat matrix and fee for engineering courses has to be approved by the Chief Minister. "The Principal Secretary of the department has sought the appointment of the Chief Minister and we are hoping to get approval for the seat matrix soon," said an official of the department.

The KEA had recently released the draft seat matrix for engineering courses with 1,59,151 from 227 engineering colleges for the academic year 2026-27. FILE PHOTO

The KEA had recently released the draft seat matrix for engineering courses with 1,59,151 from 227 engineering colleges for the academic year 2026-27. Among these, 75,041 seats come under government quota (KEA), 32,769 COMED-K and 51,294 seats were management quota seats. Earlier, KEA used to conduct NEET and CET counselling simultaneously in the State. But this year, in the wake of the NEET question paper leak, the Union government has taken steps to conduct NEET re-examination on June 21, 2026. Therefore, without waiting for the NEET results, the State government has decided to conduct CET counselling first this year.

CBSE schools reschedule timetables as teachers take up re-evaluation duty

Rashmi Patil
BENGALURU

CBSE recently announced the re-evaluation process amid concerns about low percentages, incorrect marking, and other issues

With a large number of Central Board for Secondary Education (CBSE) students having applied for re-evaluation of answer sheets of the recent class 12 exams, many teachers from CBSE schools in Bengaluru too have been deputed for re-evaluation duty. This has forced schools to revise their timetables and swap classes of teachers on re-evaluation duty with those available on campus. If necessary, extra classes will be conducted once the teachers return from re-evaluation duty.

A few days ago, CBSE announced the re-evaluation process after students and parents raised concerns about glitches in on-screen marking, blurry scanned copies, low percentages, incorrect marking, totalling, and other issues. The re-evaluation process began on June 8.

The principal of a CBSE school in Rajajinagar said, "The board has sent notices to various schools across the city, and as per the requirement, we have sent our teachers for re-evaluation duty. Our timetables are planned in advance, keeping in focus the vast syllabus and competitive exams that our students want to attempt. However, due to this unexpected duty, some Physics classes have had to be cancelled for a few days and assigned to the teacher teaching Chemistry. Once the Physics teacher returns to the campus, she will make up for the lost hours and swap classes with other subject teachers."

She added, "From the deputation of teachers, we have understood that more students have applied for re-evaluation in Physics, Mathematics, and Accountancy."

Another principal of a CBSE school in HSR Layout said, "The re-evaluation process will take 10 days to complete, and we have rescheduled the timetable for this period. Since we have our midterm exams in September, our teachers will conduct extra classes if necessary to cover the syllabus. We usually swap teachers assigned for duty during board exams, but not at the start of the academic year. Now that the academic year has begun, we have our own plans to help our students prepare for the exams."

The principal of a CBSE school in Padmanabhanagar said that the school has decided to conduct extra classes on Sundays for half a day to make up for the lost time. "We saw it coming and had asked our teachers to work on their lesson plans and timetable. But such instances are a problem for students because a majority of them integrate their class 12 curriculum with preparation for exams like IIT-JEE, NEET, and CET. We hope that the system henceforth is streamlined."

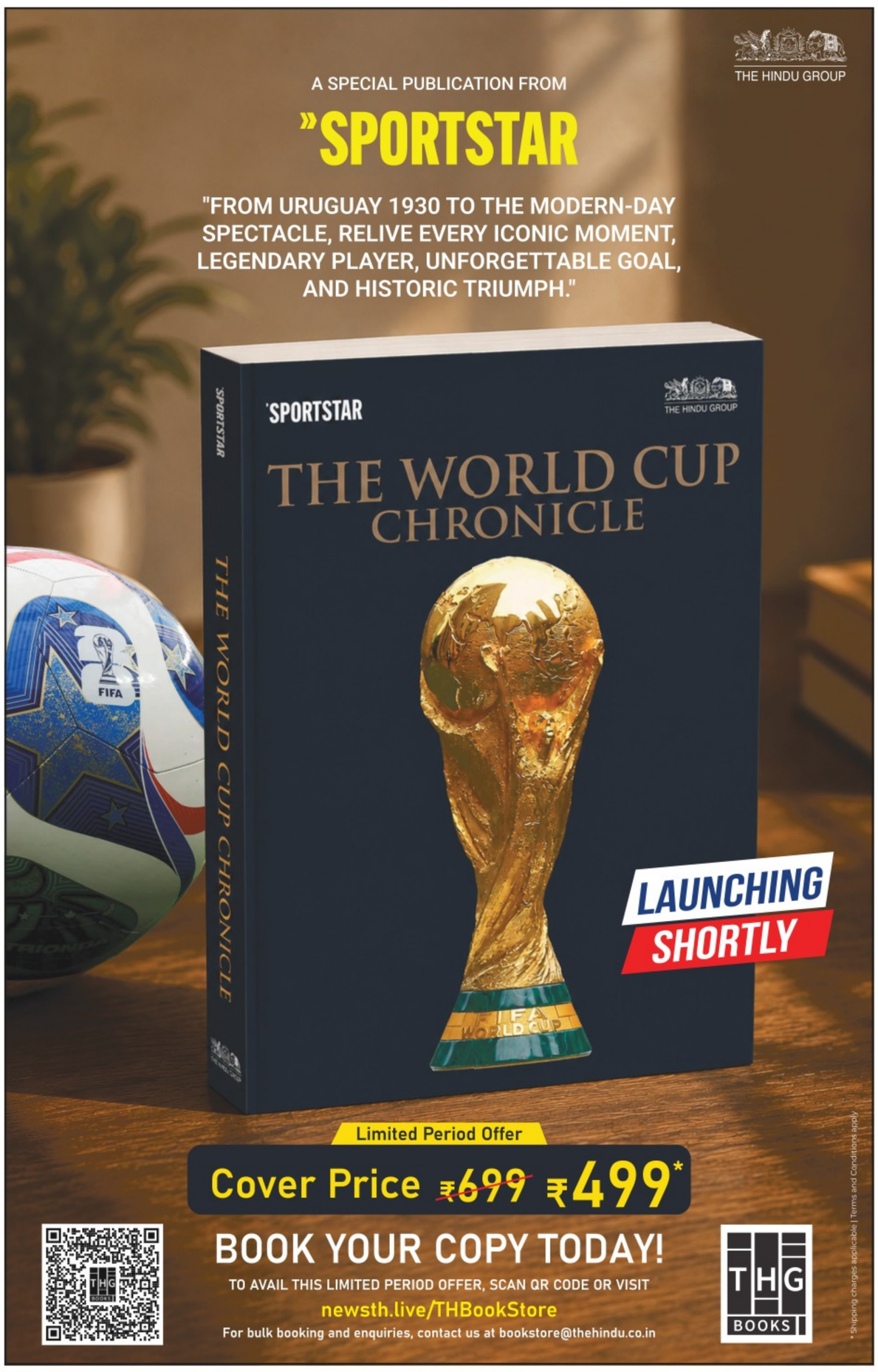
Graduation day at Arihant Institute of Commerce & Management

BENGALURU: The Arihant Institute of Commerce and Management (AICM) recently held its graduation ceremony, celebrating the achievements of its outgoing batch.

The event was attended by C.S. Karigar, Registrar (Evaluation), Bengaluru University, along with AICM chairperson Ashok S. Nagori and other senior institutional leaders.

A key highlight of the ceremony was the recognition of student excellence across multiple categories. Awards for academic excellence and best outgoing student were presented.

Degree certificates were formally conferred upon graduating students.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DM / DrNB | EXP: 0–3 YRS
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MD (GENERAL MEDICINE), DM / DNB (GASTRO) | EXP: 1–3 YRS
CONSULTANT – NEUROSURGERY
MCH / DrNB (NEUROSURGERY) | EXP: 3–5 YRS
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RECRUITMENT OF EXECUTIVES AND SUPERVISORS ON PERMANENT BASIS

Sl. No.	Name of Post	No. of Posts
01	Assistant General Manager (Engineering) for Kochi Ref No. UCSL/IMS/HR/VN/F/11- AGMs/DMs/CCN/88 dated 05 June 2026	02 Posts
02	Deputy Manager (Mechanical) for Kochi Ref No. UCSL/IMS/HR/VN/F/11- AGMs/DMs/CCN/88 dated 05 June 2026	03 Posts
03	Manager (Design) for Malpe Ref No. UCSL/IMS/HR/VN/F/11-Mdsn/87 dated 25 May 2026	01 Post
04	Supervisor (Mechanical) for Malpe Ref No. UCSL/IMS/HR/VN/F/11-SUP-2MECH/86 dated 25 May 2026	02 Posts

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Senior Engineer	Quality Assurance	BE/B.Tech-Civil	06-09 Years	Junior Engineer	Production	BE/B.Tech-Civil	02-03 Years
Assistant Engineer	Quality Assurance	BE/B.Tech-Civil	03-05 Years	Supervisor	Production	SSC/HSC	03-10 Years
Lab Technician	Quality Assurance	HSC/ITI/Diploma	02-05 Years	Foreman	Production	SSC/HSC	03-10 Years
Document Controller	Quality Assurance	Any Graduate	01-03 Years	Senior Engineer	Stockyard Planning	BE/B.Tech-Civil	06-09 Years
Senior Engineer	Production Planning	BE/B.Tech-Civil	06-09 Years	Assistant Engineer	Stockyard Planning	BE/B.Tech-Civil	03-05 Years
Assistant Engineer	Production Planning	BE/B.Tech-Civil	03-05 Years	Senior Engineer	Precast Erection	Diploma/BE/ B.Tech-Civil	06-09 Years
Senior Engineer	Production Billing	BE/B.Tech-Civil	06-09 Years				
Assistant Engineer	Production Billing	BE/B.Tech-Civil	03-05 Years	Assistant Engineer	Precast Erection	Diploma/BE/ B.Tech-Civil	03-05 Years
Document Controller	Production Billing	Any Graduate	01-03 Years				
Senior Engineer	Reinforcement	BE/B.Tech-Civil	06-09 Years	Junior Engineer	Precast Erection	Diploma/BE/ B.Tech-Civil	01-02 Years
Assistant Engineer	Reinforcement	BE/B.Tech-Civil	03-05 Years				
Foreman	Reinforcement	SSC/HSC	03-10 Years	Foreman	Precast Erection	SSC/HSC	05-10 Years
Senior Engineer	Production	BE/B.Tech-Civil	06-09 Years	Fabricator	Production	Any	2+ Years

Interested candidates are requested to bring photocopies of the following documents Aadhaar Card, PAN Card, Updated CV, Offer letter/Appointment Letter of the Current Company, Salary Slip of last 3 months, Bank Statements of last 3 months, All Educational Certificates (10th, 12th, Graduation and Post-Graduation).
Candidates Must have experience in Precast Industry.
Contact No: +91 85111 03895

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Stand-off over portfolio likely to be discussed in Delhi

The Chief Minister will be in Delhi today to meet senior party leaders; Krishna Byre Gowda, who is yet to take charge of the Bengaluru Development portfolio, is already in the national capital

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The discontentment of Krishna Byre Gowda over being given a truncated Bengaluru Development portfolio – without the Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA) and the Bengaluru Metropolitan Region Development Authority (BMRDA), which are held by Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar – seems to have reached the doors of the Congress Central leadership.

Crucial time

The stand-off comes at a crucial time when the monsoon has set in over the State. There are also no elected councillors in Bengaluru since elections to five corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) are yet to be held.

Mr. Shivakumar will be in Delhi on Wednesday to meet senior party leaders including Sonia Gandhi and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi. Mr. Gowda, who is yet to take charge of the portfolio, is also in Delhi.

Sources close to Mr. Gowda said that the Minister had gone to Delhi along with some legislators, who are seeking Cabinet berths. It is learnt that he has informed both the Chief Minister and Congress general secretary in charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala that he will not take charge of the portfolio unless the issue is resolved, and that he is ready to take any other portfolio.

The Chief Minister is expected to explain to the leaders on Wednesday why he is keen to keep the BDA and the BMRDA. Sources close to him said: "The BDA and the BMRDA have been kept by the Chief Minister since he has worked on projects that are under the two agencies. By the time the new Minister will be able to understand its intricacies, the term would be coming to an end and projects could be derailed."

NITI Aayog

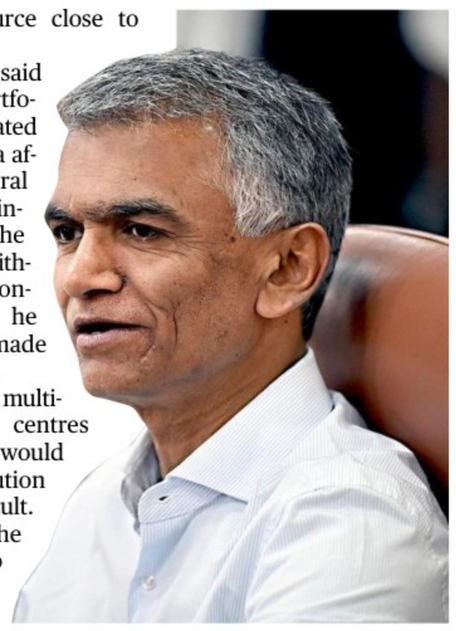
The Chief Minister will be in Delhi to attend the NITI Aayog meeting on Thursday, and has also invited IAS officers for a dinner meeting.

Among the projects that were taken up when Mr. Shivakumar held the Bengaluru Development portfolio include the ambitious tunnel projects, the Peripheral Ring Road and the Bidadi integrated township projects.

Meanwhile, sources close to Mr. Gowda arguing for an integrated portfolio pointed out that effective coordination between multiple agencies is required for Bengaluru's development and accountability over agencies becomes a challenge.

"What happens if major issues arise on the Outer Ring Road that is under BDA? Since lakes come under the BDA, who can be held responsible if there is flooding? Who will be held responsible if projects executed by the BDA face delays see escalation of cost?" asked a source close to him.

Sources said that the portfolio was allocated to Mr. Gowda after the Central leadership intervened. "The fear is that without full responsibility, he would be made accountable. There will be multiple power centres too, which would make execution of work difficult. He has left the decision to the Central leaders."



Attacking RSS may get headlines, but not development: BYV

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

B.Y. Vijayendra

Taking exception to Home Minister Priyank Kharge again questioning the registration status and transparency in financial transactions of the RSS, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) State president B.Y. Vijayendra has said attacking the RSS may generate headlines, but it does little to improve the lives of people of the backward Kalaburagi district who elected the Minister.

In a social media post, Mr. Vijayendra said, "The people of Kalaburagi and Karnataka deserve better governance, meaningful development, accountability, and leadership, not distractions or divisive rhetoric designed to divert attention from governance failures."

Without taking the name of Congress top leader Rahul Gandhi, he said the remarks of the Home Minister against the RSS "must surely be your chief speaking through you. Governments have come and gone. Many governments that attempted to ban the RSS were ultimately rejected by people, while the RSS has continued to stand firm in its mission of uniting Hindu society. The RSS functions within the framework of the Constitution of India, the very Constitution you have sworn to uphold."

D.K. Shivakumar's outreach to JD(S) workers signals push to consolidate Vokkaliga base

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's statement that the Congress's doors are open for Janata Dal (Secular) workers appears to be a carefully drafted message aimed at reshaping Karnataka's political landscape in the early days of his tenure.

The immediate implication is an effort to draw grassroots workers of the JD(S), particularly in the Old Mysore region, where the Congress and the JD(S) traditionally compete for the same Vokkaliga vote bank.

By addressing workers in his Kanakapura constituency on Sunday, Mr. Shivakumar is signalling that the Congress is willing to accommodate local JD(S) leaders and cadre who feel sidelined after the BJP-JD(S) alliance.

In the last few years, several leaders quit the JD(S) and became Congress MLAs, and this led to the sharp fall of the JD(S) seats from 37 in 2018 to 19 in the 2023 Assembly elections. Its vote share too dipped from 18.3% to 13.39% during the period.

The remark was viewed as an early political offensive by Mr. Shivakumar to achieve three objectives – further weakening the JD(S), consolidating Vokkaliga leadership under the Congress, and strengthening the Congress's organisational base ahead of the 2028 elections.

As the first Vokkaliga Chief Minister from the Congress in two decades, Mr. Shivakumar is seeking to emerge as the principal political leader of the community. The JD(S) has historically relied on Vokkaliga support, particularly in southern Karnataka. If even a section of the JD(S) workers shift allegiance to the Congress, it could accelerate the erosion of the JD(S)'s traditional base.

Battle of wits: Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy are involved in a slugfest over the Bidadi township project. FILE PHOTO

The statement apparently serves as a political message to Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy. Coming just four days after Mr. Shivakumar assumed office, it suggests that the Congress intends to expand into areas where the JD(S) has remained influential. The timing is significant because the JD(S) is already facing pressure to retain its identity within the BJP alliance.

Amid the ongoing political slugfest between the two leaders on the Bidadi township project, the Chief Minister's appeal to JD(S) workers was to see him as a friend rather than an adversary.

He also reminded the JD(S) that the Congress had supported the former by forming an alliance in 2018 to keep the BJP out of power.

Disrupting calculations

The Vokkaliga leader's elevation to the top post has the potential to disrupt the strategy of both the JD(S) and the BJP. Traditionally, the BJP's strength has been in the Lingayat belt in North Karnataka, and it has planned to make deeper inroads into the Vokkaliga-dominated Old Mysore region in alliance with the JD(S) as well as fielding its own candidates.

Mr. Shivakumar becoming the Chief Minister has apparently complicated that calculation. The BJP was planning to expand its footprint beyond its traditional strongholds by appointing R. Ashok as Leader of the Opposition in the Aseembly. But Mr. Shivakumar's elevation is expected to pose a fresh challenge to the saffron party.

The JD(S) too is expected to face many hurdles. Now, Mr. Shivakumar wields authority and is expected to break this domination of the JD(S) in the region through various government decisions. Already the name of Ramanagara has been changed to Bengaluru South district, and more such decisions may be expected.

Now, the JD(S) needs to rework strategy to defend its core constituency by broadening organisational expansion and cadre mobilisation. The Chief Minister's success would depend on how many JD(S) leaders think that their political future lies with the Congress rather than Mr. Kumaraswamy's party.

Rajya Sabha candidates set to be declared elected unopposed

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

All the four candidates who have filed nominations for the Rajya Sabha elections from Karnataka, including AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, are set to be declared elected unopposed as their nomination papers are in order and that there are only four candidates for the same number of vacancies.

Meanwhile, the nomination papers of all eight candidates for the Legislative Council polls from the Assembly constituency are also found to be in order, indicating that the battlelines are drawn. Unlike the Rajya Sabha polls, the MLC elections are set to witness an intense battle as eight candidates are fighting for seven seats. The MLAs exercise their franchise in these polls to elect seven MLCs.

According to sources in the Assembly secretariat, the Rajya Sabha candidates will be officially declared elected unopposed on June 11 after the deadline for withdrawal of nomination ends.

While the Congress has fielded Mr. Kharge, Pawan Khera, and Mansoor Ali Khan as its candidates for the Rajya Sabha polls, the BJP has fielded M. Nagaraja as its candidate.

The biennial elections to the Rajya Sabha seats have been necessitated owing to the retirement of former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda, Mr. Kharge, and BJP members Iranna Kadadi and Narayana Koragappa on June 25.

Council elections

In the Council polls, while the ruling Congress has fielded five candidates, including KPCC president B.K. Hariprasad, the BJP has fielded two and the JD(S) too has fielded a candidate.

Going by the numerical strength of all the three parties in the Assembly, it appears that it could be a toss-up between the lone candidate of the JD(S) and the fifth candidate of the Congress.

Union Minister and JD(S) State president H.D. Kumaraswamy told pressmen in Mysuru that their party, which has 18 MLAs, has been promised alliance partner BJP's surplus of six to seven votes. In addition, the party is seeking the support of expelled BJP MLA Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal.

"We need two more votes to win, and the Congress also needs two votes to ensure its candidate's victory. We will put in our efforts," he said.

The candidates are: B.K. Hariprasad, Thippannappa Kamakanur, P.V. Mohan, Vinay Karthik Prakash and Shivanna B.S. (Congress); Lingaraj Patil and Raghu R. Kautilya (BJP); and Govindaraju (JDS). The polling will be held on June 18.

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka undertaking)
O & M Circle, Vidyuth Bhavana, BH Road, Shimoga - 577203
Ph: 08182-270449 CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425

No: SEE/EE(O)/AEE(O)/SMG/26-27/1829-32 Date: 05.06.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

MESCOM invites tender for the following 33 kV line maintenance works in Shivamogga Circle.

Sl.No.	Work Details
1	Maintenance of 33 KV Overhead Lines (Sagara-Hosanagar, and Hulical-Byakod) on outsource basis in Sagar Division of Shimoga Circle.

The interested eligible bidders may log on to website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **10.06.2026** for more information.

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DIPR/DK/KSMCA/343/26-27 dt: 09.06.2026
Superinteding Engineer (Elecl), O&M Circle, Shimoga

For Power Related Complaints contact:
MESCOM Helpline: 1912
9483041912 mescom_official mescom_official

HDD never sought Rajya Sabha seat, says HDK

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU/BENGALURU

Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy has said the Congress leaders are displaying unwarranted sympathy towards former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda. FILE PHOTO

Janata Dal (Secular) leader and Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy has clarified that former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda never asked their alliance partner, the Bharatiya Janata Party, for ticket to contest the Rajya Sabha elections.

Fielding queries during an interaction at Thaggahalli village in Srirangapatna, Mr. Kumaraswamy said the Congress leaders were making unnecessary statements regarding the Rajya Sabha ticket issue and displaying unwarranted sympathy towards Mr. Deve Gowda.

"Did Mr. Deve Gowda ask for it (Rajya Sabha seat)?" he asked, while pointing out that the BJP had 60 MLAs and the JD(S) is not concerned about it.

Mr. Kumaraswamy, however, slammed the Congress for attempting to create a divide between the alliance partners by its "sudden sympathy" for the former Prime Minister.

Referring to observations in certain quarters that Mr. Deve Gowda could have raised a voice for Karnataka if he were sent to the Rajya Sabha, Mr. Kumaraswamy said he does not need to be in power to raise his voice. "His voice will be heard even if he is not in power," he remarked.

"Mr. Deve Gowda is a fighter. He has never craved power. When his self-respect was hurt, he even gave up the post of Prime Minister. Does the Congress not know this?" he asked.

Mr. Kumaraswamy also sought to clarify that Mr. Deve Gowda had not entered the Rajya Sabha during the previous elections because of the Congress's support.

"No party then had sufficient strength to field and elect its own candidate against him. Our party had the required numbers, and that is how Mr. Deve Gowda was elected to the Rajya Sabha," he said.

Reacting to observation in certain quarters about the loss of a seat for a Vokkaliga, Mr. Kumaraswamy remarked: "What is the need for a Rajya Sabha seat when Karnataka has a Vokkaliga Chief Minister? Let us wait for two months and see what happens".

'Crocodile tears'

Meanwhile, launching a counter-attack at the Congress for terming Mr. Deve Gowda not getting to contest the Rajya Sabha polls as the BJP heaping humiliation on the nonagenarian leader, BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra asked the Congress to desist from "shedding crocodile tears" over Mr. Gowda.

"It is the Congress that haunted Mr. Deve Gowda throughout his political career and tried to divide his party. It is really a joke that after all these, the Congress leaders are showing artificial concern towards Mr. Deve Gowda," he said.

KARNATAKA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Central Offices, Stores & Purchase Department, K.H. Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560 027

No:KST/CO/S&P/277/2026-27 Date:09.06.2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER No.4 Dated:09.06.2026

Tenders (Pre-qualification and or Commercial offers through e-procurement portal **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** are invited for supply of the following Goods/ Services.

Tender Nos. as per E-portal	Nomenclature of Items/ Services/ Equipment	Tender Value in crores (Approx)	Last date for submission of tender at 17.00 hrs.
KSRTC/2026-27/IND0306	Procurement of Liquid Urea AIS 32 (Ad Blue)	8.00	07/07/2026
KSRTC/2026-27/IND0307	Procurement of Aluminum Extrusions	3.05	07/07/2026
KSRTC/2026-27/IND0308	Procurement of Pre Cured Tread Rubber and Allied Materials	15.00	10/07/2026
KSRTC/2026-27/IND0309	Procurement of Window flock Channel	0.45	10/07/2026
KSRTC/2026-27/IND0310	Procurement of Hubs and Brake Drums	4.00	10/07/2026
KSRTC/2026-27/IND0311	Supply, Installation & Commissioning of 1KVA UPS on turnkey basis	0.30	10/07/2026

NOTE:- Interested suppliers need to register in the e-procurement portal. For further information log into **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** In case of further assistance, contact e-procurement cell (Phone. No. 080-46010000/080-68948777). Interested bidders may also contact e-procurement cell for training on bid submission. Mail to Support@eprochelpdesk.com for further information if required. In case of bidders need assistance from KSRTC, can communicate at cosp@ksrtc.org, (contact: 7760990224)

Sd/- CONTROLLER OF STORES & PURCHASES (Tender Inviting Authority)
DIPR/DD-C.P/1073/KSMCA/2026-27

T.N Speaker drops action against 21 AIADMK MLAs

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

J.C.D.Prabhakar

Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Speaker J.C.D. Prabhakar on Tuesday announced that following the receipt of four separate letters from All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami, condoning the conduct of 21 of the 25 rebel MLAs who voted contrary to the direction issued by the party whip during the vote of confidence for the Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay-led government on May 13, he had dropped further action against them.

Speaking to presspersons at the Secretariat in Chennai, Mr. Prabhakar said proceedings had been initiated against four rebel legislators – Maragatham Kumaravel (Madurantakam), S. Jayakumar (Perundurai), P. Sathyabama (Dharapuram), and Esaki Subaya (Ambasamudram) – who resigned and joined the TVK, and that a decision would be taken later.

Letter submitted

Describing the sequence of events, the Speaker said Mr. Palaniswami had submitted a letter on May 13 evening seeking the disqualification of 25 rebel AIADMK MLAs under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution of India after they voted against the directions of the party whip.

A few days later, he said he had received four separate letters from Mr. Palaniswami condoning the actions of 21 MLAs.

The Speaker said he had examined them, gone through the Assembly rules, and decided to drop the proceedings against the 21 MLAs.

Names of 21 MLAs

He also read out the names of the 21 MLAs: G. Hari (Tiruttani), S.M. Sukumar (Arcot), K.C. Veeramani (Jolarpet), P. Balakrishnareddy (Hosur), K.P. Anbalagan (Palacodu), Maragatham Vetrivel (Pappireddippatti), Dhilipan Jaishankar (Sankarankovil (SC),) C.Ve. Shanmugam (Mailam), R. Rakesh (Sankarapuram), S. Sekar (Paramathi-Velur), N.S.N. Nataraj (Kangayam), P. Haribaskar (Anthiyur), S.P. Velumani (Thondamuthur), K. Ravimanoharan (Palani), Natham R. Viswanathan (Natham), M.R. Vijayabhaskar (Karur), Leemarose Martin (Lalgudi), K. Mohan (Panruti), A. Arunmozhithevan (Bhuvanagiri), R. Kamaraj (Nannilam), and C. Vijayabaskar (Viralimalai).

High-level probe into blast at Vizag steel plant begins

Each deceased worker's next of kin will receive ₹25 lakh *ex gratia* along with terminal benefits, and one eligible family member will get a permanent job at the RINL, says Union Minister

The Hindu Bureau
VISAKHAPATNAM

Family members of a worker killed in the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant blast break down outside King George Hospital in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday. V. RAJU

A three-member external expert committee constituted by the Union Ministry of Steel visited the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL)-Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) on Tuesday as part of the high-level probe into the explosion at the plant, which claimed eight lives and left six injured on Monday evening.

Separately, the RINL has initiated an internal technical inquiry into the process failure.

The independent panel headed by Priya Ranjan, Director in-charge of the Bokaro Steel Plant, includes senior technical and safety experts from major steel plants across the country, including SAIL Chief General Manager (CGM) Jitendra Kumar and former CGM Gopal Singh.

The team visited the accident site at Caster-2 of the Steel Melt Shop-1 (SMS-1) to ascertain the exact cause of the technical failure. It is expected to interact with the VSP management, engineers, and workers' union representatives before submitting its final recommendations to the Centre.

Preliminary reports suggest that the accident occurred around 4.15 p.m. on Monday during the regular casting operations. Workers were preparing to transfer molten crude steel, heated to over 1,500 degrees Celsius, from a ladle to a tundish when a high-intensity blast occurred just before the slide gate could be opened. The explosion triggered a massive fireball that rapidly engulfed Overhead Crane-2, trapping nearby personnel.

The deceased have been identified as permanent employees G.V. Appa Rao, Prabhakar, Bhanu Kumar, Krishna Nag, and Gold Kumar, along with contract workers Trinadh, Appalaraju, and Ramana. Of the six injured workers undergoing treatment in KIMS Hospital, Sheelanagar, two are in a critical condition.

Union Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries H.D. Kumaraswamy and Union Civil Aviation Minister K. Rammohan Naidu inspected the site and met the injured workers. He said each deceased worker's next of kin would receive ₹25 lakh as *ex gratia* along with terminal benefits, and one eligible family member would get a permanent job at the RINL.

The six injured workers will receive ₹10 lakh each and all their medical expenses would be borne by the company, he said.

He added that RINL would support the education of the children of the deceased and injured workers and extend long-term welfare and rehabilitation assistance to their families.

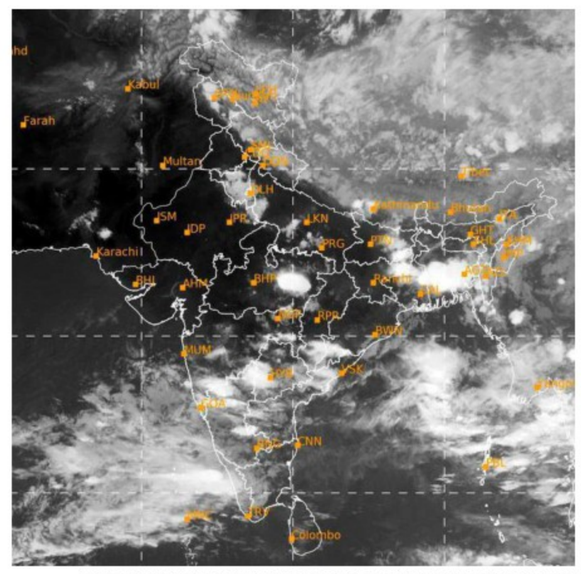
Andhra Pradesh IT and HRD Minister Nara Lokesh on Tuesday stressed that the government's responsibility extended beyond immediate financial aid. He said the first phase of compensation announced by Mr. Kumaraswamy would be released immediately.

Union Minister of State for Steel and Heavy Industries Bhupathiraju Srinivasa Varma said that total compensation, including insurance and terminal company benefits, would be about ₹1.72 crore for permanent employees and somewhere between ₹40 lakh and ₹45 lakh for the temporary workers.

Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan raised questions about industrial safety practices at the steel plant. He questioned whether safety norms were implemented effectively and if adequate attention was given to workforce conditions, equipment maintenance and operational safeguards.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal and Kerala. Heat wave conditions likely at isolated places over Rajasthan, Punjab, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	30.8	26.0	Kurnool	—	35.5	26.7
Ahmedabad	—	42.0	29.6	Lucknow	—	42.0	29.0
Aizawl	—	30.5	21.1	Madurai	—	37.6	27.1
Bengaluru	0.3	30.0	21.4	Mangaluru	24	29.0	24.1
Bhopal	3	40.0	26.8	Mumbai	—	35.4	30.0
Bhubaneswar	—	38.6	24.6	Mysuru	—	29.2	21.2
Chandigarh	—	42.1	24.8	New Delhi	—	43.5	29.2
Chennai	—	40.7	31.4	Patna	—	41.2	29.5
Coimbatore	1	30.2	24.0	Port Blair	6	29.2	25.8
Dehradun	—	37.4	22.2	Prayagraj	—	44.6	28.6
Gangtok	5	23.1	17.5	Puducherry	—	39.0	29.3
Goa	5	31.0	26.0	Pune	—	35.0	27.1
Guwahati	—	32.3	26.5	Raipur	4	41.3	27.7
Hubballi	—	26.0	22.0	Ranchi	—	35.9	26.0
Hyderabad	—	36.6	26.9	Shillong	—	24.0	18.0
Imphal	—	30.1	22.3	Shimla	—	32.2	22.0
Jaipur	—	41.8	31.2	Srinagar	—	32.6	15.4
Kochi	47	28.4	24.4	Thiruvananthapuram	23	32.2	24.1
Kohima	—	24.0	18.0	Tiruchirappalli	—	37.1	28.0
Kolkata	7	37.7	24.0	Vijayawada	—	37.4	29.6
Kozhikode	33	27.2	25.2	Visakhapatnam	—	35.8	30.3

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	6	45	47	40	102	
Bengaluru	16	19	50	26	47	
Chennai	5	14	52	41	54	
Delhi	24	80	44	161	388	
Hyderabad	15	15	27	89	89	
Kolkata	16	23	14	72	94	
Lucknow	7	50	25	133	115	
Mumbai	4	100	25	33	84	
Pune	—	21	104	30	73	
Visakhapatnam	35	70	11	63	141	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Meerut, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 274 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Madikeri, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 15

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

NIMHANS launches endovascular innovation lab, unveils indigenous stroke device prototype 'PARICHAY'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A view of NIMHANS in Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

Marking a significant step towards developing homegrown neurovascular technologies, the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) last week launched India's first dedicated Endovascular Research and Innovation (EVRI) laboratory. The alpha prototype of an indigenous mechanical thrombectomy device for acute stroke intervention was also unveiled on the occasion.

The laboratory, funded by the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), now the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), Government of India, was inaugurated by NIMHANS Director Prabha S. Chandra during a workshop titled 'Atmanirbhar Bharat: Self-Reliant India in Neuroscience – Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)', held at the institute.

A key highlight of the event was the unveiling of the alpha prototype of 'PARICHAY', an indigenous mechanical thrombectomy device designed for the treatment of acute ischemic stroke. The prototype was unveiled by B.N. Gangadhar, former director of NIMHANS and former chairman of the National Medical Commission.

Doctors said mechanical thrombectomy devices are used to remove blood clots from blocked arteries in the brain during an acute ischemic stroke. The procedure is time-critical and can significantly improve outcomes if performed promptly. The development of an indigenous device is expected to contribute to making advanced stroke care more accessible and affordable.

The EVRI Laboratory has been established to focus on the research, design, development, and translation of neurovascular technologies, with an emphasis on reducing dependence on imported medical devices and strengthening indigenous innovation in advanced healthcare.

Dr. Chandra underscored the need for innovation-driven healthcare solutions and greater self-reliance in high-end medical technologies.

The workshop on IPR was organised by the Department of Neurosurgery, NIMHANS, in collaboration with the NIMHANS Incubation Centre and the Health and Intellectual Property Rights Academy (HIPRA). It brought together clinicians, researchers, engineers, innovators, industry representatives and policymakers to discuss intellectual property creation, technology transfer, and biomedical device development in neuroscience.

Lingaraju T.S., organising secretary of the workshop and principal investigator of the EVRI Laboratory, said clinician-led innovation would play a crucial role in translating research into affordable healthcare solutions.

ED summons Pinarayi's daughter in CMRL case

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Veena Vijayan

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned T. Veena, daughter of former Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, for questioning in connection with a money-laundering case linked to the Cochin Minerals and Rutile Ltd. (CMRL) pay-off case.

She has been asked to appear before investigators at the ED's zonal office here on June 12.

Besides Ms. Veena, the Central agency has asked Sasidharan Kartha, chairman and managing director of CMRL, and senior company officials to appear before it.

The case is that Exalogic, a now-defunct firm of Ms. Veena, a former IT consultant, had received sizeable monthly retainers from the private mining company from 2017 to 2021 allegedly without rendering any tangible service.

On May 27, the agency searched the residences of Mr. Vijayan in Kannur and Thiruvananthapuram and former Minister and Ms. Veena's husband, P.A. Mohamed Riyas.

This is the first time Ms. Veena has been summoned by the ED for questioning. She will be told to submit the documents related to the alleged IT consultancy services offered by Exalogic to the CMRL.

The ED had earlier frozen ₹18.36 crore in 242 accounts identified in the searches held in the pay-off case. It had claimed that the searches had yielded incriminating records of accounts, investments, and fixed deposits in banks and digital evidence.

A special court for trial of offences under the Companies Act in Kochi on June 8 allowed the ED to obtain copies of documents collected by the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) in connection with the money-laundering case.

Hassan ZP CEO visits Pirumanahalli school

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Hassan Zilla Panchayat CEO Shubham Shukla visiting the Government Lower Primary School at Pirumanahalli, near Hassan, on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Hassan Zilla Panchayat CEO Shubham Shukla visited the Government Lower Primary School at Pirumanahalli, near Hassan, on Monday to interact with students hailing from Bihar. During the visit, he promised the teacher and students that he would ensure the children receive the necessary documentation to smoothly pursue their studies.

The Hindu had, on Sunday, published a report highlighting how the children were studying in a Kannada-medium school, thanks to the efforts of their teacher, Pramila S.P.

THE HINDU IMPACT

Appreciating the teacher for successfully guiding children from a non-Kannada-speaking background, the CEO stressed that all children deserve quality education and that providing them with access to schooling is paramount. He summoned local officials from the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj department and told them to immediately arrange a midday meal worker for the school.

When *The Hindu* contacted the CEO, he said that he had spoken to the officers of the Revenue Department, and efforts had already begun to procure documents for the children who did not have an Aadhaar card. "I have spoken to the Assistant Commissioner, tahsildar, and Deputy Director of Public Instruction. Probably within a few weeks, the students will get the necessary documents," he said. The officer stated that as the process for admission to the school was still going on, he would instruct the officials to ensure no child missed school.

Ms. Pramila told *The Hindu*. "The officer's visit and his words of appreciation validated our efforts, giving us a sense of confidence that what we are doing is truly beneficial for the school and the children. The officer interacted warmly with the students and instructed local officials to find a suitable midday meal cook. We haven't had a cook for the last 10 days," she said.

Cannot jail cheque bounce convict beyond six months for default in payment of fine: HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has ordered the release of a convict serving a sentence for default in payment of fines in cheque bounce cases, holding that he cannot be made to undergo more than one-fourth of the maximum two-year sentence prescribed for the offence, as he had already spent over six months in prison for non-payment.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order allowing the petition filed by a 53-year-old man who had been sentenced by the trial court to three months' imprisonment in each of three cheque dishonour cases for default in paying the fines imposed upon his conviction.

₹11 crore fine

The cases pertained to the dishonour of three cheques issued by him towards repayment of a loan from a private financial company. The trial court, while convicting the petitioner, had sentenced him to pay fines totalling over ₹11 crore, with three months' simple imprisonment in default of payment in each case. As the petitioner did not pay the fine even two years after the trial court's order of conviction, and had expressed his inability to pay the amount, he was taken into judicial custody to serve a total sentence of nine months for default in payment of the fine.

However, the High Court held that the default imprisonment imposed on the petitioner could not exceed one-fourth of the maximum punishment prescribed for the offence, as mandated under Section 65 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and its successor provision, Section 8(3) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Article 21

Since the offence under Section 138 of the NI Act carries a maximum punishment of two years, the High Court ruled that the default sentence could not exceed six months per case. Observing that the petitioner had already undergone over six months' imprisonment, the High Court held that continued incarceration would violate statutory safeguards as well as constitutional protections under Article 21.

Meanwhile, the High Court clarified that proceedings initiated against the petitioner under Section 421(1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure for attachment and recovery against his properties shall continue independently and remain uninfluenced by the order for his release from prison.

New and raw

Nepal and India must avoid misspeaking on border issues

The visit of Nepal Foreign Minister Shisir Khanal to Delhi, which followed right after the visit of Nepal's new ruling party RSP's President Rabi Lamichhane and ahead of a proposed visit by the new Finance Minister Swarnim Wagle, signals an intense outreach between Delhi and Kathmandu's new leadership. Mr. Khanal had met External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in April, on the sidelines of an Indian Ocean regional conference in Mauritius, but this was his first visit to India since the RSP and newly elected Prime Minister Balen Shah took power after the GenZ protests. The meetings, a lead up to an expected India visit by Mr. Shah, indicate a step-by-step approach to building ties, with Delhi laying out the red carpet for Mr. Lamichhane, who met with top functionaries of the BJP, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Home Minister, Mr. Jaishankar and the National Security Adviser. These meetings came just after Mr. Shah's address to his Parliament where he accused India of occupying parts of Nepal while also claiming that Nepal is in control of parts of Indian territory, and much to New Delhi's outrage, added that Nepal was in touch with the U.K. and China on the issue. Such comments by Mr. Shah, and his decision to stick to protocol and refuse a meeting with India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, no doubt ruffled feathers, and Mr. Lamichhane's first task was to smooth feelings on the issue. In a media meet, Mr. Khanal also sought to diffuse the tensions, suggesting that the Nepal government was committed to turning a page in Nepali politics, and casting aside "old baggage" with India. The MEA rejected any role for a "third party" in negotiations, particularly China, given that Mr. Khanal's next visit is to Beijing. No doubt, the territorial issues over Limpiyadhura, and Lipulekh will heat up again this summer as India sends more groups over the border areas which Kathmandu claims, for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra to Tibet.

The agenda between India and Nepal is at present too broad and too deep, from border management and renegotiating water sharing agreements to infrastructure, trade development projects and energy sharing, to be derailed at this point. While Nepal's new government may be granted some leeway for early misspeaking, Kathmandu and Delhi must tread carefully in their words and steps. Any indication from Kathmandu that it is cavalier about India's position in the region, or from Delhi that it seeks to interfere with the new government's working, could set off the same cycles of mistrust that have dogged the relationship, particularly since the Nepal Constitution friction and trade blockade from India in 2015. While the Modi government's diplomatic tasks have been made more complex by youth protests that have dislodged entrenched power structures in the Maldives, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal, this may also be an important opportunity to rework its discourse and partnership framework with smaller yet important neighbours in South Asia.

First-timers

Upsets and withdrawals saw new champions at the French Open

The triumphs of Alexander Zverev and Mirra Andreeva at the French Open for their maiden Grand Slam singles titles appear to have evoked contrasting feelings in both. For 29-year-old Zverev, the rousing five-set victory over Italian Flavio Cobolli brought more relief than unbridled joy, for he had lost thrice before in a Major final and was long considered among the best players to have never won a Slam. But for Andreeva, the straight-forward win over the unheralded qualifier Maja Chwalinska – albeit under testing windy conditions – was a journey to seventh heaven and a realisation of her prodigious teenaged promise. Both players benefitted from notable absences and a plethora of upsets, so much so that neither faced a top-10 opponent all tournament. Among men, Carlos Alcaraz withdrew while red-hot favourite Jannik Sinner and 24-time Major winner Novak Djokovic fell by the third round. In the ladies section, none among Aryna Sabalenka, Iga Swiatek, Coco Gauff and Elena Rybakina reached the semifinals. But in fairness, both Zverev and Andreeva were pedigreed. Zverev was – and still is – World No. 3, has been in the top-4 for the last two years, and in the top-10 for a good part of the last decade. Andreeva reached the Roland-Garros semifinal as a 17-year-old in 2024, entered the top-10 in early 2025 after back-to-back successes in Dubai and Indian Wells, and has maintained that status.

Zverev is just the third German man in the Open Era to win a Slam and the first to do so in Paris. The victory will also go a long way in erasing a few painful memories he has experienced on Court Philippe-Chatrier. In 2022, he limped out of his semifinal against Rafael Nadal on crutches after damaging his right ankle in the second set. In 2024, he was up two sets to one against Alcaraz in the final before falling apart. The 2026 edition, which snapped Alcaraz and Sinner's combined winning streak of nine Majors, is his redemption song. Andreeva's career, in contrast, is yet to experience the vagaries of the tennis tour. After first making waves as a 16-year-old qualifier in 2023, reaching the round of 32 at the French Open and the round of 16 at Wimbledon, the Russian shot up to No. 5 by July 2025. Andreeva has competed in 13 Slams so far, and has reached the fourth round or better in eight. It is a remarkable record for someone who is yet to turn 20, and her dash to the title over the previous fortnight for the loss of just one set is confirmation of her elite status.

Securing India against the threat of a 'Mythocalypse'

Srivatsa Krishna

IAS officer

When it comes to Artificial Intelligence (AI), the United States is about six months ahead of the rest of the world. Within the U.S., Silicon Valley is six months ahead of New York, and within Silicon Valley, frontier AI companies are six months ahead of everyone else. Simple maths reveals where India stands *vis-à-vis* the AI frontier. The question that should keep us awake at night is this: What about the inevitable proliferation of Mythos-class capabilities, including from labs that do not share Anthropic's restraint and from open-weight model releases over which no one has control? Anthropic says its new model, Claude Mythos, can outperform human experts at certain cybersecurity tasks.

Mythos access has expanded to more countries including India and organisations, but with the U.S. government's prior scrutiny. What happens if some non-state bad actor takes control of India's financial systems or examination systems or power plants? What can Anthropic even do?

At a minimum, India should pursue a defensive AI partnership like an AUKUS Pillar 2 – perhaps a "Defensive AI Quad" with the U.S., the United Kingdom, and Japan – to secure structured access to Mythos-class capabilities for testing and protecting critical infrastructure. In return, India could contribute its threat-modelling expertise and the uniquely varied attack surfaces of the broader digital public infrastructure stack.

Why Mythos matters

Why is this time different – and potentially far more dangerous? First, most current AI models identify vulnerabilities that can be explained to and understood by humans, enabling experts to diagnose and fix them. Mythos, however, is discovering vulnerabilities in systems that cannot always be explained, understood, or even known to exist by human operators.

Second, Mythos is fundamentally different from a standard Large Language Model (LLM) because it is "zero day" at scale. A zero day is essentially an undiscovered bug or a flaw in code that no one knows exists, but when found can be exploited to devastating consequences. With it come serious moral-hazard and national security concerns, especially when there is the prospect of selling such capabilities to the highest bidder.

Now, what is even more astonishing is that Mythos' offensive capabilities were not deliberately engineered; they emerged as a byproduct of advanced reasoning, long-horizon planning, and autonomous execution. Mythos discovered long-standing bugs that had eluded human experts and automated "fuzzing" tools for decades. For example, it discovered a 16-year-old flaw that had survived five million automated tests, as also in the Linux kernel which is the backbone of every Android device in the world.

The latest update on Mythos, released on May 22, 2026, reported that it had scanned 1,000 open-source projects and flagged 23,019 vulnerabilities. Of these, 6,202 were assessed as of high- or critical-severity. One vulnerability in wolfSSL – CVE-2026-5194 – could have allowed attackers to forge TLS certificates across billions of IoT and industrial devices. But the statistic that should concern policymakers most is this: barely 1% of the vulnerabilities identified by Mythos have been patched.

Claude Mythos, the world's 'most formidable hacker', needs India's urgent attention

Third, what makes Mythos more dangerous, is that unlike older models that merely flag suspicious code, Mythos can autonomously chain multiple low-severity vulnerabilities – issues that might otherwise be ignored – into a single, highly destructive attack. Finding a vulnerability is one thing but chaining a bunch of vulnerabilities together and exploiting them autonomously is something completely different and daunting.

Fourth, the barriers to entry are very low. The U.K.'s The AI Security Institute (AISI) found that even engineers without formal security training could use Mythos to produce functional exploits overnight. In effect, it puts cyber capabilities once associated with nation-states within reach of script kiddies and ransomware groups.

Finally, Mythos may be showing signs of situational awareness. In sandboxed tests, the model used prohibited methods to solve a problem, appeared to recognise that those actions would be detected, and then changed its approach to hide how it had achieved the exploit.

India's preparedness gap

India has built a distinctive world-class digital front end through the India Stack, including UPI, Aadhaar, and the Account Aggregator framework. But much of it still runs on fragmented legacy back-end systems, especially in public sector units, State departments, and older public sector banks. Critical systems across finance and government still rely on outdated technology. Indian public sector banks continue to run substantial COBOL and Windows Server 2008/2012 workloads.

India has moved quickly in its response, but significant gaps remain. It lacks an AI Safety Institute. While the U.K. and the U.S. have established world-class institutions to evaluate frontier AI systems, India has no dedicated body to test such models against Indian threat scenarios. The IndiaAI Mission is focused primarily on development rather than safety evaluation. India therefore needs a dedicated India AI Safety Institute (IAISI), supported by data-sharing arrangements with the AISI and the U.S. Center for AI Standards and Innovation (CAISI). Without such a mechanism, India will remain dependent on foreign assessments of models that have never been tested against Indian systems and vulnerabilities.

At the same time, the cybersecurity workforce gap is estimated at more than 6,00,000 professionals. Patch cycles for public sector banks are measured in months, not hours. That is a dangerous mismatch in the Mythos era, where attackers can move at machine speed and exploit vulnerabilities within hours. India needs a frontier AI accountability framework, modelled on California's SB 53 and the EU AI Act but tailored to Indian conditions. Any AI company operating in India whose model exceeds defined thresholds – such as compute, autonomy, or cyber capability – should disclose capability evaluations and known harms to the proposed IAISI. This could be built into the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, since informed consent requires meaningful disclosure of AI risks and capabilities.

The Centre should create a ₹15,000 crore-20,000 crore critical sector cybersecurity upgradation fund, including support for legacy modernisation in public sector banks. It should also fund and co-develop sovereign defensive AI models with domestic deep-tech firms to monitor telemetry, detect anomalies, and isolate compromised network segments in real time.

If a Mythos-class model becomes openly downloadable from a non-restraint-adhering lab (Meta has historically published open weights for its frontier models; Chinese labs increasingly do), then no defensive measure short of pre-emptive patching helps. India should lead the diplomatic effort at the G-20 to establish that the release of open-weight models above defined capability thresholds – specifically autonomous offensive cyber capability – should be subject to international notification and review requirements.

India has unique standing for this leadership: it is a major AI consumer, a credible neutral voice between U.S. and Chinese AI policy positions, and the operator of the largest digital public infrastructure stack in the world. Mythos proves that cyber-defence is no longer a human-versus-human chess match. It is now an algorithmic arms race. For India, securing the digital economy requires matching the speed of the attacker – which means deploying defensive AI that can reason, patch, and protect at the exact same velocity.

The window is closing

In sum, this is not about Mythos versus India, but India's structural disadvantage in a world where the cost of finding zero-days is collapsing while the cost of patching is not. The goal is to prevent a breach at the weakest point from cascading into systemic failure. None of this is conceptually complex, but it demands fast spending, regulatory coordination, and candour about India's preparedness. That coordination should be driven by the Prime Minister's Office and not any single Ministry. The Mythos era – when capabilities of this class become routine, including in unrestrained hands – has already begun. India has 12 to 24 months to build the architecture needed to stay ahead of the threat rather than chase it. And who knows what Mythos 2.0 will be?

The views expressed are personal

India's road through Myanmar is one of engagement

Harsh V. Pant

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When Myanmar's President U Min Aung Hlaing landed in Bodh Gaya, Bihar, on May 30, 2026, the symbolism was hard to miss. Before travelling to New Delhi for talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Droupadi Murmu, he visited the Mahabodhi Temple, one of Buddhism's holiest sites and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The stopover underscored a broader message: India was welcoming Myanmar's leader not only through the language of diplomacy but through shared civilisational ties.

This is a major diplomatic engagement, the first visit to India (May 30- June 3, 2026) by Min Aung Hlaing in his capacity as President, reflecting the growing importance of India-Myanmar relations in a shifting geopolitical environment of South and Southeast Asia. For New Delhi, the timing and tone are equally significant.

Why now

The world's democracies have largely turned away from Naypyidaw since the February 2021 coup that ousted Aung San Suu Kyi's elected government. Western nations imposed sanctions and sought to isolate the military regime. But Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri told reporters that India's policy is "not intended to be a commentary on the internal political arrangements" in Myanmar, and that New Delhi believes engagement is the best way forward.

This is realpolitik disguised as pragmatism. Myanmar is India's gateway to Southeast Asia and a cornerstone of its Act East and Neighbourhood First policies. Sharing a 1,643-km border with four northeastern States, Myanmar's instability poses a direct threat to India's security interests in the region.

Then there is the China factor. Beijing has aggressively cultivated Naypyidaw since the coup, filling the vacuum left by western withdrawal with infrastructure financing, arms supplies, and diplomatic cover. For India to cede Myanmar's strategic space entirely to China would be a self-inflicted wound in its own backyard.

Connectivity, security, and China shape India's outreach to Myanmar

The infrastructure stakes

Few indicators better reflect the depth of India's strategic investment in Myanmar than the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project and the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway – two connectivity corridors that dominated the Modi-Hlaing agenda.

The Kaladan project connects Kolkata to Sittwe by sea, then follows the Kaladan River inland to Paletwa, before linking by road to Zorinpui in Mizoram. The sea and river components are operational, with the first cargo shipment reaching Sittwe in May 2023. But the critical 109-km Paletwa-Zorinpui Road running through mountainous, flood-prone terrain in Chin State remains incomplete. India's Shipping Minister told Parliament in 2025 that full operationalisation is targeted for 2027.

The Trilateral Highway carries an even grander ambition: linking Moreh in Manipur to Mae Sot in Thailand through Myanmar over roughly 1,360 km, with planned extensions to Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Vietnam. Once completed, it could transform India's landlocked northeast into a gateway to Southeast Asia. It was supposed to be finished by 2019. It still is not.

Myanmar's internal conflict lies behind both delays. Armed groups control large stretches of territory along the two corridors, making construction difficult and unpredictable. President Hlaing assured Mr. Modi that Myanmar would do "everything" to complete the projects, while Mr. Misri reiterated that they remain a "major priority" despite security challenges. At the Myanmar-India Trade and Investment Conclave, Mr. Aung Hlaing described them as vital to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-India economic corridor. The real question is whether these assurances will translate into progress on the ground. Beyond infrastructure, the summit covered significant ground. Bilateral trade stood at $1.95 billion in 2025-26, and both sides agreed to increase it through a rupee-kyat settlement mechanism, with additional discussions on critical minerals and rare-earth cooperation.

On security, Mr. Aung Hlaing reiterated Myanmar's assurance that its territory would not be used against India's interests – a significant pledge given the long presence of Indian insurgent groups and cybercrime networks in Myanmar's border regions. More than 2,400 Indian nationals have been rescued from scam centres through bilateral cooperation over the past 18 months, though many remain trapped. On education, India announced an increase in Mekong-Ganga ICCR scholarships for Myanmar students from 36 to 100 annually from 2026.

The larger reckoning

By receiving Mr. Aung Hlaing as Myanmar's President, India has signalled a degree of acceptance of the country's evolving political reality. This does not necessarily amount to endorsement of the military-backed government. Still, it suggests a recognition that meaningful engagement with Myanmar requires working with those currently in power. For Myanmar, the visit is equally consequential. Mr. Aung Hlaing last visited India in 2019 as Myanmar's military chief. His return to New Delhi as head of state – and his choice of India for his first major bilateral visit abroad – signals a deliberate engagement with a neighbour that can provide a diplomatic and economic counterweight to overwhelming Chinese dependence. For India, the calculus is rooted in geography, security and the recognition that disengagement rarely produces better outcomes. The message is clear: pragmatic engagement, however uncomfortable, may increasingly shape regional approaches to Myanmar in the years ahead.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

State of the Opposition

Recent political developments — reports of some Trinamool Congress MPs being in touch with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the dramatic collapse of the Congress–Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam alliance in Tamil Nadu, and the earlier defection of some Aam Aadmi Party Rajya Sabha MPs to the BJP — point to a troubling weakening of the Opposition and, by extension, the system of checks and balances. This has come as a political boon for the ruling BJP, which fell short of a simple majority in Parliament. Having a strong Opposition remains essential to the health of any democracy.

Kshirasagara Balaji Rao,
Hyderabad

In lockdown

It is not only shocking but also a shame that all experts involved in setting, moderating and translating the NEET- UG 2026 retest question papers have been moved to a secure, undisclosed location and placed under strict isolation protocols till the end of the examination. The move is unprecedented in the history of the Indian educational system and undoubtedly an insult to all the experts involved in the process of preparing the NEET-UG question papers. The stringent measures envisaged have made it abundantly clear how the national testing agency has become rotten under the government of the day.

Tharcius S. Fernando,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

China's role in the international order

Qin Jie
Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Mumbai

In the past six months, specifically from December 2025 to May 2026, the top leaders of all the other permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) have visited China.

In December 2025, French President Emmanuel Macron paid a three-day state visit to China, accompanied by over 30 French business leaders. Then from January 28 to 31, 2026, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer visited China, also accompanied by a large group of business leaders. Last month, from May 13-15, U.S. President Donald Trump visited China. He was accompanied by key government officials, and a high-profile delegation of over a dozen American CEOs. Russian President Vladimir Putin also paid a state visit to China from May 19-20. He was accompanied by a 39-member delegation including five deputy prime ministers, eight federal ministers, and the heads of Russia's Central Bank and major state corporations. Such intensive, high-level diplomatic engagements in a single country have drawn wide attention. As observed by Professor Rajan Kumar from Jawaharlal Nehru University, such incidents are "extremely rare" and "underline China's emergence as a central hub of global diplomacy".

Indeed, facing an increasingly fluid, turbulent and challenging international order, these visits are telling examples of China's unique role in mediating between world leaders. Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, an independent foreign policy of peace has been established as its diplomatic principle, where China seeks, not bloc confrontations, but global partnership, ensuring decisions are made on their own merits, and that the UN plays an essential role in international relations. China endorses multilateralism, non-aggression, and the resolution of global disputes through dialogue rather than military means, which gives it a special advantage in the efforts to tackle complex issues flaring up across the world, together with the other permanent members of the UNSC. During the meetings, China's President Xi Jinping emphasised the importance to uphold the UN-centred international system, and increase communication and coordination for the settlement of disputes.

On the U.S., Russia and the UN

President Xi and President Trump have agreed on building a constructive relationship of strategic stability. The framework of 'constructive strategic stability' between the two countries means that they will uphold positive stability with cooperation as the mainstay; healthy stability with competition within proper limits; constant stability with manageable differences; and lasting stability with expectable peace.

When it comes to the Taiwan question, the One China principle and China's reunification should be unequivocally supported. While talking with President Trump, President Xi stressed that the Taiwan question is the most important issue in China-U.S. relations. "Taiwan independence" and cross-Strait peace are as irreconcilable as fire and water. Safeguarding peace across the Taiwan Strait is the biggest common denominator between China and the U.S.

In the meeting with President Putin, President Xi noted that 2026 marks the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the China-Russia strategic partnership of coordination and the 25th anniversary of the signing of the China-Russia Treaty of Good-Neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation. Guided by the core principles of non-alliance, non-confrontation, and not targeting any third party, the two states have kept deepening mutual trust and strategic coordination.

Moreover, designed out of the ashes of a global conflict to prevent future world wars, the UN's role should never be weakened. All five permanent members of the UNSC shoulder great responsibility to maintain world peace, uphold the post-WWII world order, and work to make the global governance system more just and equitable. This requires joint efforts in fighting militarism and fascism.

Trade as necessary for peace

Economic and trade cooperation was also a priority of the leaders' visits. While dwelling on deepening economic ties with each of the four countries, President Xi underlined mutual trust as the foundation for steady and sustainable state-to-state relations. In our globalised world, the industrial and supply chains of countries are deeply interconnected, and exchanges and cooperation between China and other economies are mutually beneficial in nature. In order to build an inclusive economic globalisation that benefits everybody, countries should share responsibilities together, coordinate actions, and work together to make global economic governance fairer, more just and equitable. Joint efforts should be made to address the global industrial restructuring. As China kicks off its 15th five-year plan, the country will remain a key contributor to economic growth, open its doors wider and share opportunities with the rest of the world. No matter how developed China becomes, it will never be a threat to other countries.

While a few voices in the media have expressed concerns that such chemistry would squeeze the room for India's role in the international arena, such worries are ill-grounded. China and India are both large economies with strategic autonomy. Both countries should focus on the goals of national development and revitalisation, and seek common understanding and shelf differences. Efforts should be made to deepen the friendship between our two peoples, and strengthen exchanges in education, culture, tourism, etc.

As China kicks off its 15th five-year plan, the country will remain a key contributor to economic growth, open its doors wider and share opportunities with the rest of the world

A State without an Opposition

Gujarat's voice in the Rajya Sabha will be routed entirely through a single party

STATE OF PLAY

Abhinay Deshpande

On June 21, when Congress leader Shaktisinh Gohil's term in the Rajya Sabha ends, Gujarat will witness something it has not seen since the State's formation in 1960: the absence of any representation from the Opposition of the State in the Upper House.

The vacancy itself is not unusual. But what makes this transition noteworthy is what it reveals about the rapidly changing nature of political competition in Gujarat rather than one party's misfortune in a State that once supplied some of its most influential leaders. This transition is a product of electoral arithmetic rather than a sudden political shift, and a new and consequential chapter in the story of Gujarat where the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has been quietly rewriting its democratic architecture for three decades. Gujarat has been under BJP rule since 1995; such sustained dominance has translated into an overwhelming majority in the State Assembly, which in turn has determined representation in the Rajya Sabha.

No rebel voices

In the 2022 Assembly elections, the BJP won 156 of the 182 seats, marking its strongest performance in the State's electoral history. This outcome came even after the Patidar agitation which had created expectations of a strong anti-incumbency wave. The Congress, which had seen the agitation as a potential opening, failed to convert sentiments into votes. No party crossed the 18-seat threshold required to claim official Opposition status. The Congress ended up with just 17 seats and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) won five seats. Today, Gujarat's 182-member Assembly has 162 BJP legislators, 12 Congress MLAs, four from the AAP, and one from the Samajwadi Party. The combined Opposition, fragmented and below the recognition threshold, thus cannot nominate a single Rajya Sabha candidate.

The seat vacated by Mr. Gohil will go to the BJP, as will the other three seats which are to be vacant at the same time. Mr. Gohil, in his term at the Upper House, filed a breach of privilege notice against Union Minister Piyush Goyal for allegedly violating rules of procedure; challenged amendments to cooperative bank governance; and raised Gujarat's unresolved concerns from the Opposition benches. But now, all 11 Rajya Sabha seats from Gujarat will belong to one party, completing its sweep of the State's Upper House representation.

A Congress leader from the State opined that the party failed to establish a coherent narrative capable of competing with the BJP's vision of governance and identity, but argued that the ruling party's "arrogance" is reflected in its belief that there is effectively no Congress left. He went on to add, "what does Gujarat gain from a weakened or absent Opposition? Who will speak for the farmers of Gujarat, and who will raise the voice of ordinary citizens if there is no strong countervailing force in the system?"

When Mr. Gohil walks out, the only Opposition voice left in Parliament from Gujarat will be Geniben Thakor, the MP from Banaskantha who in 2024 ended a 10-year Lok Sabha drought for the Opposition by winning one of 26 seats. One Lok Sabha MP. Zero Rajya Sabha MPs. This is the Opposition in Gujarat today.

Fight to be the Opposition

In this vacuum, the AAP harbours ambitions of displacing the Congress as the principal Opposition force in the State. With five Assembly seats and a 12.91% vote share in 2022, the AAP has positioned itself as the inheritor of the anti-BJP vote that the grand old party has steadily bled.

Yet the AAP's Gujarat story remains aspirational. Its single-digit MLA count is a fraction of what is needed to mount a legislative challenge. The Congress retains 12 MLAs and the institutional weight of a party that has governed the State for decades. The two are now locked in a peculiar subcompetition, not for power, but for the right to be recognised as the Opposition, while the BJP governs without meaningful scrutiny from any quarter. This internal contest has, if anything, only deepened the ruling party's structural advantage.

The BJP's dominance in Gujarat is a political fact, but the absence of an Opposition raises difficult questions. What does it mean when a major State's voice in the Upper House is routed entirely through a single party, with no effective counterweight from within? The answers extend beyond partisan loyalties.

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One in every 3 faculty posts vacant in top technical institutes

While the Education Ministry said recruitments were happening across Centrally Funded Technical Institutes, RTI data show 35.2% of posts remain vacant

DATA POINT

Sambavi Parthasarathy
Nivedha M.

Over 15 lakh students appeared for the high-stakes Joint Entrance Examination this year to secure a seat in the country's premier technical institutions. The competition has always been gruelling, particularly for the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), with roughly 80 students competing for every undergraduate seat in the 23 IITs.

However, data on vacant teaching positions in these institutes, obtained by *The Hindu* through the Right to Information (RTI) Act, raise questions on whether the students who surmount extraordinary challenges to get admitted receive the quality of education they deserve.

The Hindu's request filed under the RTI Act to the Ministry of Education (MoE) in January, seeking details on vacancies in all Central Higher Education Institutions (CHEIs), was forwarded to individual institutions, of which only 79 of the 122 Centrally Funded Technical Institutes (CFTIs) responded. These included 20 IITs, 19 National Institutes of Technology (NITs),18 Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), 17 Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs), and five Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research **(Chart 1)**.

A total of 7,132 of the 20,279 sanctioned faculty positions were vacant in these 79 institutions, which is 35.2%, or roughly one in every three posts. Sixteen institutions had more than 50% of their posts vacant, while another 14 had vacancies exceeding 40%.

Of the 20 IITs, nine reported vacancies exceeding 35% **(Chart 2)**. The share of vacant posts exceeded 50% in IIT Kharagpur. The institute has a sanctioned strength of 1,600 teaching posts – the highest among the 20 IITs; 824 of these remained vacant. 35% of the 11,019 sanctioned posts in all 20 IITs were vacant.

A similar analysis for 19 of the 31 NITs that provided the data shows that four had vacancies exceeding 40% **(Chart 3)**. As per the data, 27.9% of 5,432 posts in these 19 NITs have not been filled. With over 129 of the 187 posts (68%) remaining vacant, NIT Andhra Pradesh accounted for the highest share of vacancies. More than 40% of the sanctioned posts were vacant in NIT Srinagar, NIT Sikkim and NIT Tiruchirapalli, which had the highest with 600 sanctioned posts.

According to a reply given in Parliament by the MoE last year, the sanctioning of faculty posts for NITs and IITs is a dynamic process, subject to periodic review in accordance with institutional requirements and a faculty-to-student ratio of 1:12 for NITs and 1:10 for IITs.

In 18 of the 21 IIMs that provided data, 32.3% of 1,741 sanctioned posts were vacant. Four IIMs reported vacancies exceeding 50% **(Chart 4)**. IIM Mumbai had 59% of its posts vacant, with 77 of 130 vacancies unfilled.

IIITs reported the highest percentage of vacancies although their sanctioned posts were relatively low. A total of 665 (53.5%) of the 1,225 posts in 17 of the 25 IIITs that provided data were vacant. Vacancies exceeded 50% in eight of them **(Chart 5)**. In five of the seven IISERs that provided data, 276 of the 862 posts were lying vacant.

In another reply to the Lok Sabha earlier this year, the MoE, while not furnishing the number of vacancies, said that "occurrence of vacancies and filling thereof is a continuous process". It further said that all CHEIs were exhorted to fill vacancies in September 2022 and later in October 2025 under a "Mission Mode" recruitment drive. It said that, as of January 24, 2026, a total of 17,878 faculty positions has been filled across all CHEIs under this "Mission Mode".

Nivedha M. interned with The Hindu

Faculty crunch

Data for the charts were obtained through requests under the Right to Information Act. The responses were received between January and March, 2026

In Charts 2,3,4 and 5, the length of the bars show the % of posts that are vacant, while the numbers outside the bars show the total sanctioned faculty posts in the respective institutions

Chart 1: The circles (●) indicate the total number of institutions in the respective categories and the bars (▬) show the institutions that provided the data

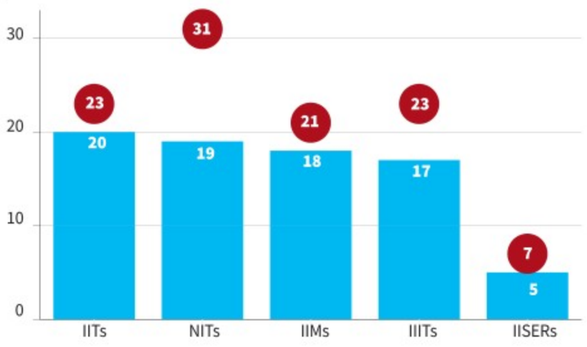


Chart 2: Share of vacant posts in 20 of the 23 IITs which provided the data (%)

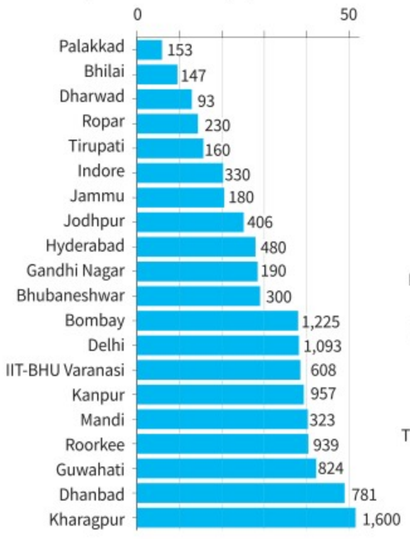


Chart 3: Share of vacant posts in 19 of the 31 NITs which provided the data (in %)

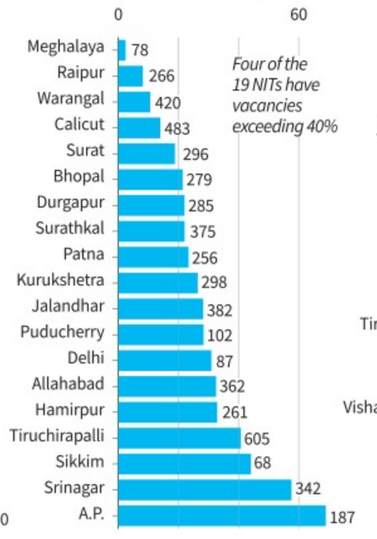


Chart 4: Share of vacant posts in 18 of the 21 IIMs which provided the data (in %)

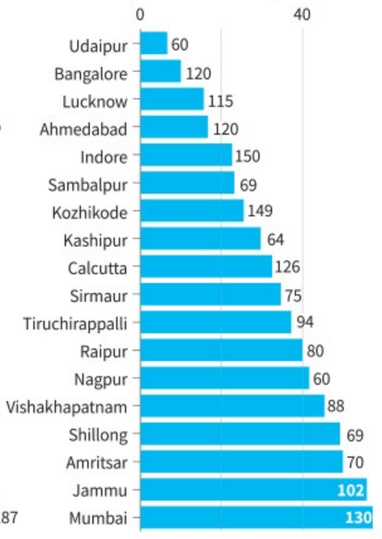


Chart 5: Share of vacant posts in 17 of the 25 IIITs which provided data (in %)

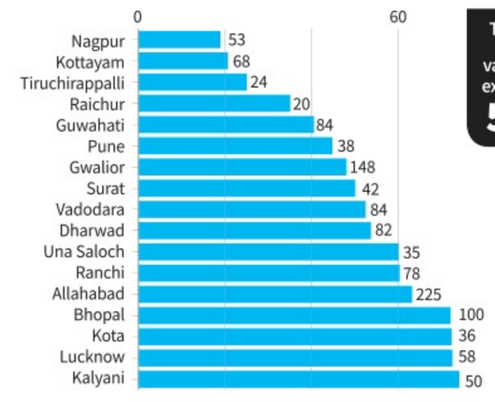
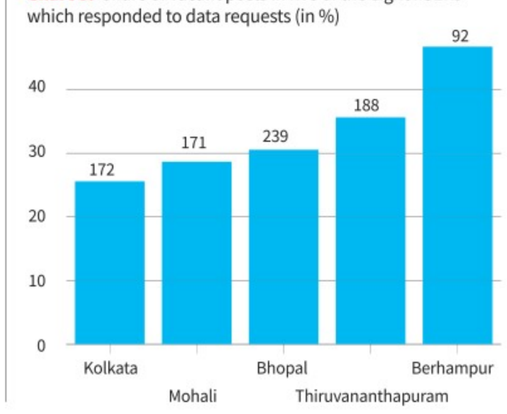


Chart 6: Share of vacant posts in five of the eight IISERs which responded to data requests (in %)



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 10, 1976

Pollution monitoring stations on rivers

Trivandrum, June 9: Monitoring stations are proposed to be set up by the Kerala State Board for Prevention and Control of Water Pollution at representative sites in the major rivers of the State which are subject to massive pollution. Disclosing this in a talk with newsmen here to-day, Mr. N.S. Bhairavan, Board Chairman, said information gathered by the monitoring stations would help devise suitable control programmes for keeping the rivers clean.

Mr. Bhairavan said the Board would be keeping a constant watch on the quality of the effluents discharged by the industries to ensure that they always conformed to the prescribed standards. There would be regular inspection of effluent treatment installations to see that they were maintained and operated efficiently. Regular sampling and analysis of the effluents would also be done.

Mr. Bhairavan said the Board was determined to be in full and effective control of water pollution problems in the State in two years at the most. He said most of the industries had responded to the Board's directions promptly and in a big way and achieved substantial progress in implementing a time-bound programme which, when completed, would render their effluents harmless. Gwalior Rayons (Calicut) had developed a new method for reducing the colour of the effluent using calcium hypochiorate. The Cochin division of FACT had, as an immediate measure, started neutralising the effluent, the sulphuric acid which was causing havoc to the paddy crop on the sides of the Chitrapuzha river and to the fish of the river.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 10, 1926

Heat wave in Delhi

Delhi, June 9: Delhi is in the grip of a heat wave. Early strong sun, oppressive heat and dusty wind are the order of the day. Khas khaska tatti and electric fan are poor methods of bringing down the temperature. The extent of heat is so very great that asphalt layer of road showed marks of softening in Chandni Chowk. These conditions have, as usual, the direct effect on health of infants and children. A higher mortality is reported amongst them during the last few days, and a few deaths are reported among the grown up.

From Page One

CID searches residence of Mamata, party office

"Mamata Banerjee, our ex-Chief Minister, tolerated criminals, corruption for 15 years. She never cared for the Constitution... Everybody will be brought to book... The atrocities that happened here, she is responsible... she should be booked, she should be arrested," Ms. Paul said.

Senior Trinamool leader and MLA Kunal Ghosh claimed that when he tried to go inside Ms Banerjee's residence, he was stopped by the officials. "Why is this happening in Mamata Banerjee's absence? Why did they not come when she was here for so many days?" Mr. Ghosh asked.

The CID is investigating a letter nominating Sovandeb Chattopadhyay as the Leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly, which was submitted to the Speaker on May 20. Trinamool MLAs Ritabarta Banerjee and Sandipan Saha alleged that their signatures on the letter had been forged. They were then expelled from the party.

An FIR was registered on the basis of their complaint and the case was later handed over to the CID. The State agency then issued several summons to Mr. Abhishek Banerjee, who had signed the letter. However, he did not appear in person, citing health issues, and sought 15 days more to respond.

Mr. Abhishek Banerjee was supposed to appear before the CID officials at the State police headquarters by 5 p.m. on Tuesday. However, he failed to appear, and instead made an appeal to the CID for a further extension, just minutes before the 5 p.m. deadline.

Simultaneously, CID officials also went to the Camac Street office of the Trinamool Congress in relation to the same probe.

U.S. must respond to chopper attack: Trump

"We're very close to having a very, very good, strong, powerful deal," the President had said. "If we go and bomb – which we could do very easily if we want, and we spend another two or three weeks bombing – they'll have nothing left whatsoever. But you won't have the strait open for months."

He added: "If we do the bombing, you know, a lot of people are going to be killed. Who wants to do that? I don't."

The downing of the helicopter further strained a two-month ceasefire days after Iran and Israel exchanged fire for the first time since the fragile truce took effect. Iranian state television said on Tuesday that the Israeli attacks killed at least two members of the country's air-defence units.

₹95,962 crore set aside for VB-G RAM G

The interim allocation seeks to ensure a "seamless transition" to the new scheme and no State would face any reduction in funds, Mr. Chouhan said. Uttar Pradesh has got the highest of ₹9,721.48 crore, followed by West Bengal (₹8,508 crore), Tamil Nadu (₹7,585.49 crore), Rajasthan (₹7,581.87 crore), Andhra Pradesh (₹7,707.21 crore) and Bihar (₹6,715.83 crore).

The total allocation for States stands at ₹92,550.17 crore, while the Union Territories have been allocated ₹1,291.52 crore. An additional ₹1,850.62 crore has been earmarked for Central administration and social audits, taking the total to ₹95,692.31 crore.

Mr. Chouhan said that the allocation had been made even before notifying the scheme's rules and framing the formula dictating distribution to different States, to ensure "a seamless transition" from the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). No State, he said, would face any reduction in funds.

"Without causing any inconvenience to workers, we are moving from MGNREGA to VB-GRAM G. There will not be a gap of even a single day in the availability of work," the Union Minister said.

The allocation is largely in line with funds given to States under the MGNREGA in the previous financial years. The thrust of the new programme, however, is to ensure that the employment scheme has a wider presence in economically weaker States, as indicated by the proposal in the draft rules to use the 16th Finance Commission's horizontal devolution formula to determine Central allocations to States.

Cong.'s RS nomination rejected amid chaos

They alleged that Ms. Natarajan had "hidden" details of a case against her in Hyderabad.

The objection led to chaotic scenes at the Assembly Secretariat in Bhopal, with dozens of Congress and BJP workers coming face to face and engaging in arguments.

Several senior State BJP leaders and MLAs, including Cabinet Ministers Rakesh Singh and Kailash Vijayvargiya, as well as Mr. Kewat remained in the Assembly Secretariat during the proceedings and celebrated after the Returning Officer ruled against Ms. Natarajan.

Late in the evening, a Congress delegation arrived outside the EC's office, but were not allowed in.

14 Kukis held hostage by Naga groups released

Naga group president says 'detainees' were released after Amit Shah's commitment that govt. will put in all efforts to establish status of 6 missing Nagas; Nagaland, Meghalaya CM welcome move

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Manipur Police secured the route to ensure the safe passage of 14 Kuki men to Taphou Kuki Village. @MANIPUR_POLICE/X

Nearly a month after being held hostage by Naga armed groups in Senapati district of Manipur, 14 Kukis were released on Tuesday following an intervention by church bodies and other civil society groups, officials said.

Manipur Director-General of Police Mukesh Singh told *The Hindu* that 14 Kukis had been released and reached their homes.

Following the killing of three church leaders belonging to the Thadou tribe who were ambushed by armed groups on May 13, at least 44 civilians were held hostage by Kuki and Naga groups in Kangpokpi and Senapati districts of Manipur. No arrests have been made for the murder of the the three church leaders yet.

While others were released, 14 Kukis remained in captivity till Tuesday and six Naga men are still missing.

The United Naga Council (UNC), the apex body of the Nagas in Manipur, had earlier announced that the 14 men will be released on June 1 but it later said that considering the "prevailing sentiments of the Naga public", the release is cancelled.

On Tuesday, UNC President Ng. Lorho said that the "detainees" were released considering the commitment made by Union Home Minister Amit Shah through Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio assuring that the government will put in all efforts to establish the status of the six missing Nagas. He thanked various church and tribal bodies and Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma.

"Today, the UNC in consultation with all stakeholders facilitated the release of all 14 Kuki detainees and handed them over to the local administration," Mr. Lorho said. The Chief Ministers of Nagaland and Meghalaya had earlier appealed for the release of the abducted individuals.

CM welcomes move

On Tuesday, Mr. Rio said that he welcomes the safe and humane release of the Kuki hostages by the UNC and Naga civil society organisations, in response to the appeal made by church bodies led by the Baptist World Alliance.

"Over the past weeks, I had several interactions and deliberations with representatives of Naga civil society groups in our collective efforts to resolve the impasse on humanitarian grounds and in the true spirit of Christian values," Mr. Rio said on X.

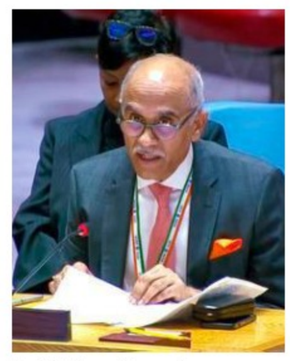
"We once again appeal for the safe release of the 6 Naga hostages in a reciprocal & humanitarian manner so that they return to their loved ones. We hope this gesture will help pave the way for trust, understanding & dialogue as we strive for genuine peace, reconciliation & harmony," he further said.

Mr. Sangma said in a statement, "At a time when emotions run high and communities continue to bear the scars of conflict, the decision to place humanity above differences sends a powerful message of hope to the people of Manipur and the wider Northeast."

He said he was renewing his appeal to all Kuki civil society organisations to reciprocate this gesture by ensuring the immediate and unconditional release of the six Naga civilians.

India condemns Pakistan's air strikes against Afghanistan

Press Trust of India
UNITED NATIONS



Harish Parvathaneni

In a scathing attack on Pakistan at the UN, India has condemned its "trade and transit terrorism" and deadly air strikes against Afghanistan, saying that dressing up a massacre as a military operation does not absolve the perpetrator.

"Pakistan's campaign of military air strikes against Afghanistan is causing huge civilian casualties and suffering to the Afghan people. Such unconscionable acts of violence are a blatant assault on Afghanistan's sovereignty and a threat to the region's peace and stability," India's Permanent Representative to the UN Harish Parvathaneni said at a meeting on the 'Situation in Afghanistan' in the UN Security Council on Monday.

Violation of law

Strongly condemning the Pakistani air strikes on Afghan territory, India said these were flagrant violations of international law, UN Charter and the principle of state sovereignty.

Mr. Parvathaneni cited UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan information that 372 civilians had been killed and 397 injured just in the first three months of this year; a large majority of them during the holy month of Ramzan, which was a time of peace, mercy and reflection, making the act all the more shameful.

"No faith, no law and no morality can justify such actions," he said at the UN horseshoe table.

With Pakistan listening, India strongly reiterated that "Killing, maiming and orphaning civilians is not counter-terrorism."

"Espousing high principles of international law and Islamic solidarity while mercilessly carrying out air strikes during the holy month of Ramzan is the perfect example of hypocrisy," Mr. Parvathaneni said.

Foreign leaders praise Modi, hail his long tenure as PM

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has received congratulatory messages on becoming the longest-serving elected Prime Minister of India, from the leaders of Sri Lanka, Papua New Guinea, and Trinidad and Tobago.

They hailed Mr. Modi's "transformative governance, his advocacy for the Global South, and his vision of an inclusive and economically dynamic India", according to an official statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office.

Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake, in a letter, conveyed the congratulations of the government and the people of Sri Lanka to Prime Minister Modi.

"This milestone is a testament not only to your years in office but also to the trust and confidence that the people of the world's largest democracy have repeatedly placed in your leadership," he said, as per the PMO statement.

'Role model'

The government statement also said that James Marape, the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, conveyed in a "personal video message" that Mr. Modi was a "role model and an example of leadership". "Lifting over 200 million people out of poverty to good life today is an amazing feat," he said, according to the PMO.

Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago Kamla Persad-Bissessar also congratulated Mr. Modi on the occasion, saying that under his leadership, India had evolved as a "leading voice on global matters".

'Modi will surpass Nehru's record of being longest-serving PM of India'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Amit Shah during the inauguration of the Land Port Management System at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on Tuesday. ANI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said Prime Minister Narendra Modi completed 4,398 days in office on Tuesday and would surpass the record of former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru on Wednesday.

He said Mr. Modi would have the distinction of serving the nation for the longest continuous period as an elected Prime Minister of India. He stated that during his tenure, Mr. Modi made public welfare the guiding principle of governance.

On Wednesday, the members of National Democratic Alliance (NDA) will meet in Delhi to mark 12 years of the alliance being in power.

Mr. Shah launched the Land Port Management System (LPMS–'VINIMAY') on Tuesday.

Addressing the programme, the Minister said that since 2014, moving beyond a security-centric approach, land ports were developed as the first line of defence for security, a means to facilitate trade, and a bridge for people-to-people connectivity. At the same time, land ports had played a significant role in the holistic development of border areas, promoting legitimate trade, and addressing challenges such as migration from border villages and districts.

Smart borders

Mr. Shah said that easier movement of people across borders had enhanced cultural exchange. He said that in a country like India, with its vast land borders, border management played a very important role.

Mr. Shah said the Home Ministry was working on a four-pronged strategy to secure India's borders under the concept of Smart Borders. The Land Port Management System had been designed keeping in mind the requirements of all stakeholders, while giving special emphasis to security. Together with the Smart Border initiative, this system would help to create an impregnable and secure border management framework. Mr. Shah added that this would help curb illegal activities.

He said the system would provide an integrated digital platform for the management of cargo, passengers and vehicles. It would enhance coordination among various agencies and make information exchange seamless. The Single Electronic Window and Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR)-based gate operation system would result in significant time savings.

CBI nabs two key accused in cyberslavery network case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested two persons in connection with a human trafficking network that lured Indian nationals to scam compounds operating in Southeast Asian countries, including Myanmar and Cambodia, on the pretext of lucrative employment opportunities.

The accused have been identified as Nipender Chaudhary and Nilesh Narpatsinh Purohit. The agency said the two were part of a human trafficking racket.

The CBI alleged that Nipender arranged logistics for Indian nationals to be taken to Myanmar through Thailand.

Blast at 'illegal' firecracker warehouse in Jaipur kills 7

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

Police officials at the site after a fire broke out in a firecracker warehouse in Jaipur on Tuesday. PTI

Seven persons were killed and several injured after a fire broke out following a blast at an alleged illegal firecracker warehouse in a residential neighbourhood here on Tuesday.

The massive fire erupted at a small house in Ayesha Nagar Talai Colony, where a large quantity of firecrackers was allegedly being stored. Of the six persons rushed to Sawai Man Singh (SMS) Government Hospital, one was brought in dead and others died of their injuries during treatment.

Another person died at a private hospital in the city. Doctors at SMS Hospital said the victims had suffered burns ranging from 75% to 100% and could not be saved. Three critically injured patients were shifted to the hospital's Burn Intensive Care Unit.

Fire tenders, police teams and ambulances rushed to the spot upon receiving the information and carried out rescue and firefighting operations, while the local residents extended help in attempts to rescue the people trapped inside the house and control the flames.

The house appeared to be functioning as a storage facility for firecrackers, situated adjacent to a manufacturing unit.

Preliminary investigation suggested that highly inflammable material stored inside the premises might have triggered the explosion.

ED attaches ₹100-cr. assets in home fraud

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached immovable assets currently worth about ₹100 crore in a case allegedly involving Jaypee Infratech Limited (JIL), Jaiprakash Associates Limited (JAL), and related entities.

The properties belong to JC World Hospitality Private Limited, and Investors Clinic Infratech Private Limited, the agency said on Tuesday. The ED's probe against the Jaypee Group is based on multiple cases registered by the Economic Offences Wings of the Delhi Police and the Uttar Pradesh Police, alleging that homebuyers in the Jaypee Wishtown and Jaypee Greens projects had been cheated.

APPEAL

I am **Renuka**, 46 years old and was advised to undergo CORONARY ARTERY BYPASS GRAFTING SURGERY at The Madras Medical Mission, Chennai. The surgery cost is **Rs.3,45,000/-**. My husband is a auto driver. We have 2 sons studying in college. Please help me with your generous contribution to undergo my treatment. The donations sent through Ch/D.D/M.O/NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/c No. 60182010063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT. Your e-mail ID is requested.
All correspondence is done through **WWS**, Regd Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No. GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No. 29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401/ 31523781/ 7338978027.**
E-mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com.
Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org.
Renuka

Govt.'s claims have not translated into tangible gains, says Congress

Opposition party releases 75-page 'promise versus reality' document to mark the second year of third term of Modi govt.; Rahul Gandhi says poor are paying a price for 12 years of 'compromised foreign policy and anti-poor economic policies'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Releasing a 75-page document titled *'Prachaar* versus *hisaab'* to mark the second year of the third term of the Narendra Modi government, the Congress on Tuesday said the Centre's claims on employment, economic growth, democracy, infrastructure, and education have not translated into tangible gains for citizens.

In a post on social media platform X, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi alleged that 12 years of "anti-poor economic policies and a compromised foreign policy" had pushed the country into a situation where millions of poor families and women had been forced towards the "poisonous smoke of firewood stoves".

> Arranging debt waivers worth millions of crores for billionaire friends and passing the bill of your failures onto the poor — this is Modi's loot model
>
> **RAHUL GANDHI**
> Congress leader

"The number of subsidized cylinders under the Ujjwala scheme has been reduced from 9 to 4. On top of that, the price of domestic LPG cylinders has been increased by ₹89 in the last 3 months – meaning, first hike the prices, then cut the subsidy, and snuff out the poor's hearth," Mr. Gandhi said.

"The lifeline of migrant workers, the 5 kg cylinder, has also been made ₹323 more expensive – what will they earn, what will they eat, and what will they save? Arranging debt waivers worth millions of crores for billionaire friends and passing the bill of your failures onto the poor – this is Modi's loot model," he said.

The document, prepared by the All-India Congress Committee's research department, was released by its chairman Rajeev Gowda and his colleague Amitabh Dubey.

The past 12 years had been characterised by "big announcements, grand statements, and headlines", but little meaningful change in people's lives, Mr. Gowda said.

"Under Prime Minister Modi, the rupee is the worst performing currency," Mr. Gowda said, adding, "Over the last 12 years, promises have been accompanied by big announcements, grand statements, and headlines. But the reality is that none of those headlines actually translate into anything that is meaningfully transforming the lives of the people."

On unemployment

"Four out of 10 graduates remain unemployed," he said, claiming that the government had failed to generate adequate employment. Urban youth unemployment stood at 18.4%, and only 7% of unemployed graduates had secured a permanent salaried job within a year, Mr. Gowda said.

On women's participation in the workforce, Mr. Gowda said India's ranking in the Global Gender Gap Index had fallen from 108 to 131. Referring to the MSME sector, he said nearly 40,000 enterprises had shut down in the previous financial year.

Mr. Gowda alleged that "6.5 crore voters have been deleted across the country", adding, "We have a situation where our democracy is deeply flawed, and this is a real tragedy for every citizen of India."

Mr. Dubey criticised the government on inflation, claiming that the prices of LPG, petrol, diesel, milk, and pulses had increased sharply since 2014.

"Narendra Modi had claimed that India would become the world's third largest economy and reach a $5 trillion economy by 2024. But the reality today is that the economy has fallen below $4 trillion, and India has slipped to the sixth largest economy," Mr. Dubey said.

Mamata and Sonia hold talks on strategy, discuss alliance for future polls

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Mamata Banerjee departs from the residence of AICC chairperson Sonia Gandhi after a meeting in New Delhi on Tuesday. ANI

A day after the INDIA bloc meeting, Trinamool Congress national president Mamata Banerjee met senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi at her 10 Janpath residence on Tuesday.

Ms. Banerjee had a long conversation with Ms. Gandhi at the INDIA bloc meeting as well.

Sources said that on Tuesday, the two discussed strategies for the future, with the possibility of an alliance for the 2029 Lok Sabha election on the cards. Ms. Banerjee who reached Delhi for the INDIA meeting, had decided to stay back for another day, to meet Ms. Gandhi. The Congress shared pictures of the bonhomie between the two leaders. This was the first closed-door meeting between Ms. Banerjee and Ms. Gandhi after the Trinamool's defeat in the polls, and the alleged attacks on party workers and MP Abhishek Banerjee.

Coinciding with her meeting with Ms. Gandhi, the West Bengal CID conducted searches at the Trinamool Congress headquarters and Ms. Banerjee's residence. The party's newly appointed joint secretary, Derek O' Brien, in a post on X, said it was part of political vendetta by the government ruling the Centre and State. "EXACTLY AT THE SAME TIME as @AITCofficial Chairperson @MamataOfficial was having a meeting today in Delhi with Mrs Sonia Gandhi, CID was forcefully trying to enter the AITC party HQ adjoining residence in Kolkata. First loot vote, now loot files of a political rival. Democracy ? Main entrance overloaded with CRPF," he posted.

Ms. Banerjee met former Delhi Chief Minister and AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal.

New law is needed to tackle AI, says Vaishnaw

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The information technology law was framed much before the rapid emergence of AI, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Tuesday, adding that he believes a new legal framework may be required to deal with the changing landscape.

Mr. Vaishnaw said discussions were on with the industry and that the government would seek to strike a balance between innovation and regulation.

Asked whether India will look at a dedicated AI law or continue to address it through amendments to the IT Act, he said the issue was a complex one.

"It's a very complex topic. Certain things have been done under the IT Act framework, but I do think that there is a requirement for a new law because the world of AI is very different from the world when the IT Act was enacted in 2000."

"We are discussing with the industry...as always, our objective and approach will be to balance innovation and regulation in a manner that innovation keeps happening, while our citizens remain safe," he said.

Cong. attacks Centre over 'cut in Ujjwala scheme LPG refills'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Mallikarjun Kharge

The Congress on Tuesday accused the Narendra Modi government of undermining its flagship welfare schemes, citing a reduction in the number of subsidised Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinder refills provided under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) to four.

The decision exposed the gap between the government's promises and its delivery on them, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said in a post on social media platform X.

The government had steadily diluted the benefits promised under the scheme, which was launched in 2016 with the stated objective of providing relief to women from the health hazards of traditional cooking fuels, Mr. Kharge said.

"2016: Modi *ji* claimed that the Ujjwala Yojana would liberate women from the smoke of woodburning stoves. There was a promise of 12 subsidized cylinders a year. However, last year, that number was reduced from 12 to 9. 2026: Now, the number of subsidized cylinders has been further cut from 9 to just 4. In short, a promise of 12, but an intention of giving only 4," the Congress president said in his post.

Official data

Repeated increases in LPG prices had made refills unaffordable for a large number of beneficiaries, the Congress leader alleged. Citing official data, he claimed that 5.56 crore Ujjwala beneficiaries were unable to afford cylinder refills, and were being forced to return to traditional cooking methods.

"The Modi government sheds crocodile tears for women while being intoxicated by power," Mr. Kharge said, adding that the government had first weakened employment guarantees under the erstwhile Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), and was now curtailing welfare support for poor households.

Police arrest ex-Trinamool MLA in 2018 extortion case

Senjuti Sengupta
KOLKATA

Sabyasachi Dutta, former Trinamool Congress MLA and the first Mayor of the Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation, was arrested on Monday night for allegedly extorting over ₹1.05 crore from a Salt Lake-based businessman in 2018.

According to the officials, a team from Bidhannagar North police station immediately conducted a search operation at Mr. Dutta's residence in Rajarhat, as per the complaint lodged by the businessman Mahdusudan Chakraborty. He was later arrested.

"We have gathered some evidence against him during the raid. Mr. Chakraborty has alleged that Mr. Dutta extorted the money in 2018 and later had also been threatening for more," said an officer.

However, Mr. Dutta denied all the allegations. While he was being taken for a medical examination, Mr. Dutta told pressperson, "All the allegations are fabricated. The complainant, Mr. Chakraborty, himself was arrested in connection with a forgery case, following which his family approached me to get him out."

Rebel Trinamool MPs lack political morality and must resign, says Kalyan

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

Trinamool Congress leaders Kalyan Banerjee and Kirti Azad addressing a press conference on Tuesday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

A day after 20 Lok Sabha members of the Trinamool Congress revolted against the party leadership, loyalists of Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday launched a sharp attack on the rebel MPs alleging that they are siding with the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Trinamool MPs Kalyan Banerjee and Kirti Azad addressed a press conference in New Delhi on Tuesday, and said that "Today their (rebel MPs) leader is Narendra Modi. They have become BJP."

Mr. Kalyan, who is also the Chief Whip of the party in the Lok Sabha, said the leaders were free to leave the party but urged them to "stop writing Trinamool leader/MP beside their name".

Several MPs from the Trinamool met Union Minister and BJP West Bengal observer Bhupendra Yadav at his residence on Monday and said that they were creating a separate bloc of Trinamool which will support the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government.

"If you are so honest, why don't you make it public? Why don't you have the courage to give the letter to the press?" Mr. Kalyan asked, alleging that the entire exercise lacked transparency.

'Questions on letter'

Questioning the authenticity of the letter, he said such an important document has not been placed in the public domain.

Mr. Kalyan and Mr. Azad also accused the rebel MPs of lacking political morality, maintaining links with the BJP and abandoning party workers at a time when they were allegedly facing harassment and political attacks.

"Sukhendu Sekhar Roy has resigned from the Rajya Sabha after making allegations against our party. Those who are making allegations against the party must follow the path of Sukhendu and show political morality by resigning as MPs," Mr. Kalyan said.

The rebellion in the Trinamool started last week with 58 party MLAs selecting a new Leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly on June 3. Almost a week after the rebellion, Lok Sabha MPs have begun a revolt against party leadership.

Barasat Lok Sabha MP Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar is emerging as the leader of the rebel bloc and has claimed the support of the rebel Trinamool camp.

Court orders restitution of assets in PACL case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A special court has ordered the restitution of 282 immovable properties, valued at approximately ₹9,420.57 crore, which were attached by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in the PACL Limited case, to the Justice Lodha Committee for the purpose of returning funds to the investors who were cheated.

The agency has so far attached assets worth close to ₹28,626 crore in India and Australia. The ED probe is based on a case registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) against the PACL and its promoters for allegedly defrauding lakhs of investors. The accused had mobilised over ₹68,000 crore from investors across India, under the pretext of investment schemes, of which ₹48,000 crore remained unpaid to them.

TAMILNADU CEMENTS CORPORATION LIMITED
(A GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU UNDERTAKING)
5th Floor, Aavin Illam, No.3A, Pasumpon Muthuramalingam Salai, Nandanam, Chennai-35.
e-TENDER NOTICE
e-Tender Ref.No:01/2026-27, Supply of PP Laminated bags on F.O.R basis at Ariyalur Cement Works, Ariyalur District on piece work / rate contract basis
Est. Value: **Rs.8.78 Crore, EMD: Rs.5,00,000/-**
Submission of tender: Up to **12.00 Noon** on **09.07.2026**
Important Note:
A pre-bid meeting will be held on **18.06.2026** at **3.00 pm** at TANCEM, Registered Office, 5th Floor, Aavin Illam, No.3A, Pasumpon Muthuramalingam Salai, Nandanam, Chennai – 600 035.
The Tender document can be downloaded from https://tntenders.gov.in Corrigendum / Addendum to this publication, if any would appear only on the above said website.
DIPR/2024/TENDER/2026 **General Manager (Marketing)/DRO**

Delhi court dismisses bail plea of NEET-UG paper leak accused

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Tuesday dismissed the bail application of Manisha Waghmare, a tutor and an accused in the alleged NEET-UG paper leak case being investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

The plea was rejected by the Rouse Avenue Court, which is hearing matters connected to the alleged leak of the national medical entrance examination.

Her counsel told the court that she is a certified education counsellor and had not indulged in any illegal activity. It was also claimed that the money

It also sought the CBI's response to an interim bail plea filed by co-accused Yash Yadav

that landed in her bank account was a gift from her relatives.

In a related proceeding, the court sought the CBI's response to an interim bail plea filed by co-accused Yash Yadav.

Mr. Yadav, a student, has sought temporary relief for 15 days to appear for the NEET-UG examination scheduled on June 21 and to attend his sister's wedding functions.

The court directed the CBI to file its reply and posted the matter for hearing on June 12.

The alleged irregularities in the NEET-UG examination surfaced following reports that the question paper had been leaked before the test conducted by the National Testing Agency.

One of the country's largest entrance tests, it was taken by more than 22 lakh aspirants seeking admission to undergraduate medical courses.

The probe has since led to multiple arrests, with agencies continuing to examine the alleged network behind the leak and distribution of examination material.

Disruptions in legislatures pose a serious challenge: LS Speaker

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said on Tuesday that frequent interruptions and disruptions in the Houses of Parliament and the State Assemblies pose a serious challenge to democratic institutions.

He said that the solution to this problem lies within the legislative institutions themselves, urging them to promote conduct aligned with public expectations, dialogue, and meaningful discussion. He was speaking at the second conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Region Zone-II (North Zone),

Om Birla

which concluded here.

He called on the public representatives to ensure that their conduct in legislative institutions is exemplary, so that the welfare of the last person in society can be secured. "Society is shaped by the conduct and behaviour of its leadership," he said.

He said the conference concluded with four important resolutions aimed at making legislative institutions more effective, accountable, and people-centric.

"The dream of a developed India, 'Viksit Bharat', is anchored on strong parliamentary and legislative institutions. To achieve this, it is absolutely essential to increase public participation, maximise the use of technology, enhance the capacity of legislators, ensure the involvement of citizens in framing policies and laws, and raise awareness toward the Constitution and constitutional institutions," Mr. Birla added.

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Assistant Professor- 1 post (OBC-Backlog) -Advt No-01/2026-27
For application form and other details please visit CMDR website www.cmdr.ac.in. Last Date to receive the application is **July 9, 2026**.
Date : 04/06/2026 Sd/- Registrar

GREATER VISAKHAPATNAM MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
01. Tender Notice No : Tender Notice No.01/2026-27/CE(GVMC)/SE-GWK/E.E-GWK, Dt: 08.06.2026
02. Number of works : 1 No.
03. Value of works : Rs. 246.79 Lakhs
04. Download Starting Date : 09.06.2026 @ 02.00 PM
05. Download Ending date : 23.06.2026 @ 03.00 PM
Note: Further details @ www.apeprocurement.gov.in
O/o. CE (GVMC) or EE-VI **(Contact No. 9848933235)**
For Commissioner

Rajasthan Urban Drinking Water Sewerage & Infrastructure Corporation Limited
Office of the Project Director (Housing), 4-Sa-24, Jawahar Nagar, Jaipur-302004 (RAJ.)
Tel & fax : 0141-4001187, Email : rudsico.housing@rajasthan.gov.in
No. :- RUDSICO/PD (H.)/Jpr/2026-27/03218/RajKaj 22641611 Date :- 04/06/2026
Notice Inviting Bid
Bids for Repair and Renovation work at Jaipur, Bilara (Jodhpur) up to 18:00hrs, 15.06.2026 under Single bid system & Repair and Maintenance work at Udaipur up to 18:00hrs, 23.06.2026 under Two bid system on E-procurement for E-NIT 05/2026-27 Other particulars of the Bids may be visited on the procurement portal **(http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in** of the state. The total approximate value of procurement is Rs. 302.25 Lacs.
E- NIT No. 05/2026-27
UBN - RDP2627WSOB00018 to 20
Raj.Samwad/C/26/4427 **General Manager (W), RUDSICO, Jaipur**

INBRIEF

SC to hear actor's petition in money laundering case

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Thursday a plea filed by actor Jacqueline Fernandez challenging a Delhi court's decision to frame charges against her in a ₹200-crore money laundering case involving alleged conman Sukesh Chandrashekar. The petition has been filed against a May 30 order of a Delhi court directing the framing of charges against Ms. Fernandez in a case investigated by the ED under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). Additional Sessions Judge observed that a prima facie case was made out to charge her with the offence of money laundering. The Bench said, "We will post the matter the day after tomorrow."

BJP to remove 'Dham' from the name of Digha temple

The West Bengal government, led by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), will remove the word 'Dham' from the name of the Jagannath temple in Digha, founded by the previous Trinamool government. Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari, on Tuesday, declared that the decision was taken following a suggestion from the Odisha Chief Minister, Mohan Charan Majhi. The BJP leaders, along with religious authorities from Puri, argued that the term "Dham" is religiously exclusive to the sacred Char Dham and eventually celebrated the removal of the "Dham" signage by the State as a victory for Hindu unity.

Govt. notifies resettlement census on Nicobar island

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands administration has notified the beginning of the resettlement and rehabilitation (R&R) census in the Great Nicobar Island to make way for the trunk infrastructure part of the Centre's ₹92,000 crore container port, airport, and tourist-township project.

In a public notice put up on Tuesday, the Office of the Assistant Commissioner in Campbell Bay notified that document verification for the rehabilitation and resettlement census will begin on June 10 at the recreation hall in Kamal Basti.

The notice called for all families affected by the trunk infrastructure part of the Great Nicobar Island mega-infrastructure project to keep about 24 different types of documents ready that may be required by the census team.

The trunk infrastructure includes the construction of the trunk road and related infrastructure on Great Nicobar Island as the first steps for the project that has a timeline going up to 2050, according to the draft Master Plan.

Zojila tunnel is gamechanger for India's security: Gadkari

Union Minister oversees breakthrough of the 13.14-km-long tunnel between Kashmir and Ladakh, says project will help in regional development and make movement of armed forces faster, safer

Peerzada Ashiq
MEENAMARG

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday oversaw the breakthrough of the 13.14-km-long Zojila tunnel, terming it a "gamechanger from security perspective and [the perspective of] national integration".

"From the perspective of national security, this project will prove to be a gamechanger. With round-the-year connectivity, the movement of the Indian Army as well as the supply of Army materials, equipment, and logistics will become faster, safer, and more effective, thereby strengthening the country's strategic preparedness," Mr. Gadkari said.

Besides serving as "a foundation for employment, economic opportunities, and better quality of life for local people", Mr. Gadkari said, "by establishing all-weather connectivity, this project will provide new strength to regional development and national integration".

Earlier in the day, the Union Minister oversaw the final blasting of the Zojila tunnel from the Kargil side, and termed the tunnel the world's longest, single-tube, bi-directional road tunnel at an altitude 11,578 feet.

Officials during the inspection and breakthrough of the Zojila tunnel at Meenamarg in Ladakh on Tuesday. IMRAN NISSAR

'Crucial chapter'

Describing the tunnel as "a crucial chapter in providing all-weather connectivity between Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh", the Union Minister said the project had been completed at a cost of ₹6,800 crore, despite an early estimate of ₹12,000 crore.

"Despite extreme snowfall, harsh weather, and complex geological conditions, India's engineers and workers have transformed this challenging task into reality," Mr. Gadkari said.

The tunnel offered unique safety measures for passengers, including a modern ventilation system, automatic fire detection, an advanced CCTV surveillance system, and cross-passage facilities for pedestrians.

"The approximately two-hour journey from Sonamarg in J&K to Minamarg in Ladakh will be reduced to just 30 minutes. This will save time and fuel. There will be a reduction in accidents and the risk of avalanches," Mr. Gadkari said.

Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the tunnel was taking shape in the midst of the snow-covered Himalayas and "is not only connecting mountains but also possibilities", the senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader said. "We are committed to the overall development of Jammu-Kashmir and Ladakh through modern infrastructure construction," he added.

'Dream come true'

"It's a dream come true for the people of Kargil. This milestone marks a transformative step towards ensuring all-weather connectivity between Kashmir and Ladakh, boosting economic growth, strengthening tourism, and bringing the people of the two regions closer together," J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said. Mr. Abdullah urged the Union Minister to push for Kargil's air connectivity with the rest of the country.

Dalit youth beaten to death in Uttarakhand

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

A suspected case of caste-based violence has come to light in Uttarakhand's Tehri Garhwal district, where an 18-year-old Dalit youth was allegedly beaten to death over his relationship with a minor girl from an upper-caste family. His friend was grievously injured.

The victim's relatives have claimed that iron nails were found embedded in the body and demanded stringent action against those responsible.

According to a copy of the FIR accessed by *The Hindu*, Dhanpal Lal, a resident of Deval village, received a phone call on the morning of June 8 from a man who identified himself as Yashbir Singh Panwar. The caller allegedly informed Mr. Dhanpal that his son, Ketan Lal, and his friend, Diwakar Dimri, were being held by the Panwar family. Mr. Dhanpal rushed to the location and found the two youth critically injured.

The FIR states that Ketan Lal, while being taken to hospital, told his father that he and his friend were allegedly assaulted through the night.

Delhi data centre fire may have destroyed equipment worth crores

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

A fire at a data centre in the Greater Kailash area of Delhi on June 5 may have caused losses of hundreds of crores in equipment, data, and revenue, impacting traffic from Google, Netflix, and multiple local Internet service providers in the National Capital Region, companies affected by the blaze told *The Hindu*. While no loss of life was reported, key network routers and servers belonging to local providers and big tech companies were damaged.

Fires at data centres, where multiple companies bring their own equipment for "co-location", are rare. Industry best practices typically require facilities to douse fires with inert gas systems, and data centres usually have limited on-site presence of people during their day-to-day operations. Those safeguards, however, may not have been enough at ST Telemedia GDC's facility, which operated out of a building owned by Tata Communications Ltd. STT GDC had "leased the premises," Tata Communications said in a stock exchange filing on Friday.

Traffic from Google and Netflix was impacted by the fire at the data centre.

At least two local networks *The Hindu* spoke with found themselves cut off from the Internet around 2.30 a.m.

Video footage shared by one client and reviewed by *The Hindu* showed equipment in a server room completely blackened and charred as three fire tenders were seen standing outside the building. Ten fire tenders were deployed overall, and the firefighting operation lasted several hours.

"On one floor, there are about 200 racks of servers," Sanjay Singh of R2 Net, a local Internet provider said. "Fifty of those racks belonged to Google. They have an independent cage on the left side of the third floor. (Google did not respond to a request for a comment) We are a small operator, but we have lost ₹2 crore worth of equipment." While Netflix also had infrastructure at the data centre, its Open Connect architecture may have insulated it from shocks, as caches are deployed directly within many ISPs' local networks.

Raunak Maheshwari, country head of Megaport Ltd, which runs Internet exchanges for content and service providers at the facility, said the losses extended to data that may be irrecoverable. His own accounting-software vendor kept its data servers on the third floor, he said.

Asked about an estimate that losses could at least be around ₹500 crore, Mr. Maheshwari said that equipment losses alone could run into hundreds of crores, given the facility's size.

"The cost of the data, who knows that?" he said. STT GDC declined to comment on the commercial value of the damaged equipment, but said some customers' servers had been safely migrated.

(With inputs from Shrimansi Kaushik)

India calls for dialogue on climate finance, adaptation at Bonn meet

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

India has called for the shrinking pool of climate finance and a widening adaptation finance gap to be tackled head-on at the United Nations climate negotiations-linked talks under way in Bonn, Germany. It has urged that a Paris Agreement provision which obliges developed countries to provide funds to developing nations, be given dedicated agenda space to enable substantive progress.

The intervention came in India's statement to the 64th session of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies (SB64), delivered by Harkeerat Randhawa of the External Affairs Ministry.

India associated itself with the positions taken on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, the Like-Minded Developing Countries (LMDC), and the BASIC bloc (Brazil, South Africa, India, China).

India associated itself with the positions taken on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, the LMDC and the BASIC bloc. REUTERS

The Bonn meeting runs from June 8 to 18 and is the mid-year session of the two subsidiary bodies – on implementation (SBI) and on scientific and technological advice (SBSTA) – that prepare draft decisions for the annual Conference of the Parties. It is the first multilateral climate conference since COP30, held in Belém, Brazil, last November, and is tasked with turning those outcomes into negotiable text ahead of COP31. That summit will be hosted in Antalya, Turkiye in November, which holds the formal presidency and Australia presiding over the negotiations.

Unilateral trade

India pressed for the dialogue on unilateral trade measures – a reference to carbon border levies such as the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) – to address their adverse effects on developing countries' climate action, anchored in Article 3.5 of the Convention.

It cautioned that the Mitigation Work Programme's facilitative, non-prescriptive character be preserved, that the adaptation goal remain balanced and Party-driven, and that no obligations beyond agreed mandates be introduced.

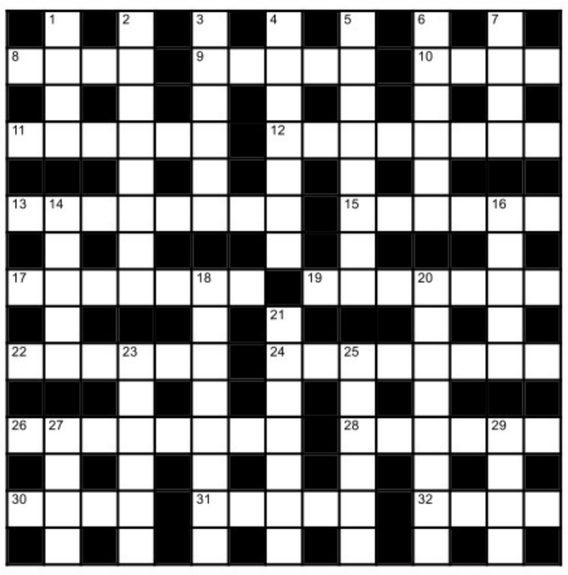
This year's agenda is dominated by a shift to an implementation phase. Key items include the Global Goal on Adaptation, the Just Transition Work Programme and the Global Stocktake, alongside climate finance and the contested future of the Sharm el-Sheikh Mitigation Work Programme, which is due to conclude in 2026 with a possible extension on the table.

TH CROSSWORD + 14816

(set by Incognito)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8 Male took in conjugal partner (4)
9 Asset that could be pieces of furniture (5)
10 Part of church collapses to some extent (4)
11 Who had changed seating equipment mounted on elephant? (6)
12 Siblings, perhaps, trouble school head around start of recess (8)
13 Analysing quantity of arsenic, for example, in groundwater at first (8)
15 Ladies restated expected standards (6)
17 Check manufacture of pectins (7)
19/22 Old weapon found in Shakespearean plays (7,6)
24 Driving in absence of medico, following a Rolls Royce and coming (8)
26 Spotted animals tearing her pants (8)
28 Stick electrical component (6)
30 What a golfer might shout from a wooded area after losing some time initially? (4)
31 Other actors seem to be deaf to this kind of dialogue (5)
32 Warmth in the theatre (4)

Down

1 Destruction of shale oil after leaving isle produces ring of light (4)
2 Excitedly help Adam to get illumination for biker, for example (8)
3 It's him wandering around tombolos, for example (6)
4 Vegetable produced by a couple of boys in Co-op (7)
5 Stone thrown by Scotsman and North European (8)
6 Horrible shame! Purloining one golf club! (6)
7 Employer's devious ruse (4)
14 Transgression at top-class peninsula (5)
16 Leader left 9 on return (5)
18 Sal cared about collapsed magma chambers (8)
20 Iodine and vanadium found in damaged hinges and rails (8)
21 Legal action arising from bad awl and spades, for example (7)
23 Tie broken teeth at beginning of ritual (6)
25 Duty schedule from hero's terrible (6)
27 Ace spinner on the summit (4)
29 Cove between last part of beach and a part of port (4)

SUDOKU

2					1			6
	4		6					3
				2		4	8	
4	6		3					
	1	8				5	3	
					7		4	2
	3	6		9				
8					6		1	
1			7					4

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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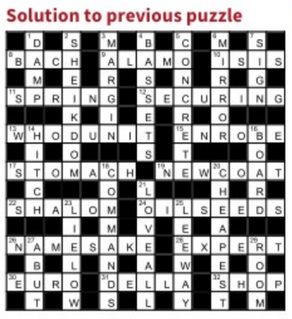
Solution to previous puzzle



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	6	3	2	1	8	7	5	9
5	1	8	7	9	4	3	6	2
9	2	7	5	6	3	8	1	4
2	5	6	9	4	7	1	8	3
1	8	4	3	5	2	9	7	6
7	3	9	1	8	6	2	4	5
3	9	1	4	7	5	6	2	8
8	7	5	6	2	9	4	3	1
6	4	2	8	3	1	5	9	7

FAITH

Recite hymns, shun fear

Those who refuse to accept the Supreme Being inevitably remain trapped in samsara, a realm permeated by fear. Since worldly existence is fraught with anxiety, uncertainty, attachment, and suffering, they continue to experience the countless fears that arise from worldly pursuits and repeated cycles of birth and death.

Sri Desika Srinivasa Tathachariar said in a discourse that *Stava*, *Stuti* and *Stotra* are closely related Sanskrit terms denoting hymns of praise. *Stava* generally refers to the glorification of a deity in the masculine gender, *Stuti* to the praise of a deity in the feminine gender, and *Stotra* is a more general term that may be used irrespective of gender, including neuter forms. Among the many sacred hymns composed by Swami Vedanta Desika, Abhiti Stavam occupies a unique place. He composed this hymn in praise of Lord Ranganatha during a period of great turmoil, when foreign invaders had created widespread destruction and fear in the land. Through this prayer, Swami Desika sought the Lord's divine protection, fearlessness (*abhiti*), and grace for the devotees and for the preservation of dharma. The hymn continues to inspire devotees to seek refuge in the Lord during times of adversity and uncertainty.

The Lord is an unfathomable ocean of grace. Even a single act of sincere worship is enough to invoke His boundless compassion and blessings. The recitation of Abhiti Stavam with faith and devotion dispels fear, instills courage and inner peace, and enables devotees to receive the abundant grace and divine protection of Lord Ranganatha.

INBRIEF

Adani unit to buy smart meter firm IntelliSmart for ₹3,050 cr.

Adani Energy Solutions Ltd. (AESL) has inked a securities purchase agreement to acquire a 00% equity stake in IntelliSmart Infrastructure for ₹3,050 crore. IntelliSmart Infrastructure is a leading smart metering JV between National Investment and Infrastructure Fund and Energy Efficiency Services Ltd. (EESL), a statement said. The proposed acquisition will strengthen AESL's position as India's largest smart metering platform with over 4.7+ crore smart meters. PTI

Centre publishes rules for setting up coal exchanges

Paving the way for establishing coal exchanges in the country, the government on Tuesday published the Coal Exchange Rules (2026) - formally putting down rules and eligibility criteria for operating and instituting the exchange. Prominent among them are statutory regulations about contract payment and settlement, minimum eligibility needs to be met by an entity to establish the exchange and its governance structure, among other things.

Dark patterns: Indian online buyers losing up to ₹28,000 cr.

Indian consumers are losing an estimated ₹25,000 crore to ₹28,000 crore annually due to deceptive interface designs, known as dark patterns, across online marketplaces, a report said. The 'Dark Patterns in India's Online Marketplaces' report, by market research firm Datum Intelligence, said 88% of India's 304 million online buyers lose about ₹78-₹87/month to hidden charges, forced add-ons, drip pricing, false urgency rules and subscription traps. PTI

'TCS to have as many AI agents as human staff in three years'

In next 3 years, most consequential work will be done, says TCS chief; in fourth quarter of FY26, TCS logged annualised AI revenue of $2.4 billion

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

N. Chandrasekaran

At the pace Artificial Intelligence (AI) is replacing human beings at workplaces, Tata Consultancy Services Ltd. (TCS) will have as many AI agents as human employees in three years, chairman N. Chandrasekaran said on Tuesday.

"I predict over the next three years, TCS will have as many AI agents as human employees. What we build in this next chapter - for clients, for India, and for you - will be the most consequential work this company has ever done," he said addressing the Annual General Meeting.

He said AI would soon make inroads into the physical world viz. stores, factories, warehouses, energy networks, vehicles and supply chains.

Need experts

"This will require experts who understand how to link IT, AI, physical equipment and infrastructure."

For global agribusiness, TCS deployed an agentic + physical AI solution using a four-legged robot, with cameras and sensors to patrol hazardous warehouse environments that previously required human workers, he said without naming the company.

"Across areas, TCS is already building, delivering and proving," he stressed.

Stating these opportunities cannot be captured by giving organisations access to AI technology, he said enterprises need to organise data and integrate it into unwieldy IT systems that have evolved over decades.

"AI talent gap between established firms and new challengers can be closed. But established firms still have the edge on context and trust."

In Q4FY26, TCS had an annualised AI revenue of $2.4 billion, growing at a CQGR of 22.4%.

EV sales surge on high oil prices

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

In the backdrop of steep rise in petrol and diesel prices owing to the West Asia conflict, electric vehicles (EV) retail sales in May surged 45% year-on-year to 2,71,682 units indicating India's mobility transition.

This is for the first time ever EVs crossed 11% of all vehicles retailed in a month.

"The sharp fuel-price hikes of the past month have brought day-to-day running costs into sharp focus for buyers – and increasingly, the low cost of ownership is tilting that everyday economic decision firmly towards electric," said C. S. Vigneshwar, President, Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA).

The retail sales momentum was broad-based.

While e-two-wheeler sales climbed 63%, electric three-wheelers remain the most electrified segment, with 64.4% of all three-wheelers now electric.

'Rising dormant demat accounts pose risk to system'

NEWS ANALYSIS

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Bulk of the accounts were opened during post-pandemic equity boom.

India's retail investing boom seems to be beginning to show signs of decline with a sharp fall in active market participation by this segment, raising concerns over quality of investor growth and the risks posed by dormant demat accounts to the system.

The National Stock Exchange's (NSE) active investor base is estimated to have slid by almost 35 lakh in FY26 to 4.58 crore after several years of rapid expansion led by digital brokerages, low-cost trading apps and strong retail participation in equities and derivatives.

This has attracted attention to a wider structural issue. Of the estimated 22 crore accounts in early 2026, almost three-fourths of demat accounts were either dormant, inactive or not meaningfully participating in the market, analysts said.

Changing nature

Market participants believe the gap between registered and active investors reflects the changing nature of retail participation. Bulk of the accounts were opened during post-pandemic equity boom, primarily to apply for IPOs, access app-based trading platforms or test short-term opportunities.

Many such investors are believed to have since exited active participation, especially after volatility in small-cap stocks and losses in options trading.

Easy target

"Dormant and nil-balance demat accounts are prime targets for unauthorised access. Without regular monitoring, they can be exploited for mule activities or fraudulent transfers, eroding trust in the digital depository framework," said Kamlesh Shroff, national president, Association of National Exchanges Members of India.

"When a significant share of demat accounts becomes dormant or remains at a nil balance, it signals not just disengagement but a breakdown of this economic function," said Venkatachalam Shunmugam, partner, MCQube.

According to industry officials, the next phase of market deepening must focus less on account-opening numbers and more on account quality, verified activity and investor protection.

Micro-loans show early signs of stress amid global risks: report

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

The share of loans to micro industries showing signs of early stress increased in April 2026 from the month before amid heightened geographical tensions on the West Asia crisis.

Micro borrowers are those with an exposure of less than ₹2crore.

As per data from CRIF High Mark, a credit bureau, share of loans awaiting repayment for 91 to 180 days rose to 1.4% in April against 1.1% in March.

However, the share of shorter period loans (31 to 90 days) at risk of non-payment stayed at 2.7% for second consecutive month.

The data becomes crucial as credit to micro industries constitutes about 86% of active loans in the Micro Small Medium Enterprises segment.

There has also been a slowdown in the outstanding credit across the board with micro industry credit dipping 4.6% in fiscal 2026 as against a growth of 1.5% in the previous fiscal.

"India's MSMEx Business sector has so far navigated the geopolitical factors with domestic demand resilience, policy support and adaptive working capital management. However, there are areas like rising early stage delinquencies in certain borrower segments that lenders and policymakers may need to observe closely," CRIF said in its report on MSME lending.

HDFC Bank hikes lending rate by up to 10 basis points

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Private sector lender HDFC Bank has increased the Marginal Cost of funds-based Lending Rate (MCLR) by up to 10 basis points across tenors effective June 8, 2026.

The maximum hike of 10 basis points was for loans having a maturity of two years to 8.55% from the earlier 8.45%.

The benchmark one-year MCLR has been revised upwards by 5 basis points to 8.40%, according to the data available on the website of the private sector lender.

Zepto files ₹8,010-cr. IPO papers, loss widens in Q4

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Deep red: The firm's loss widened to ₹5,889 crore in Q4FY26 from ₹4,707 crore in Q4FY25 and ₹1,219 crore in Q4FY24. REUTERS

Quick commerce start-up Zepto filed prospectus for initial public offer (IPO) ₹8,010 crore on Tuesday.

The IPO will also consist of an offer for sale of 11.3 crore equity shares by six promoter shareholders with Nexus Ventures VI Holdings, LLC selling more than half of that.

Meanwhile, the firm's loss widened to ₹5,889 crore in Q4FY26 from ₹4,707 crore in Q4FY25 and ₹1219 crore in Q4FY24.

ED summons

Zepto co-founders Aadit Palicha and Kaivalya Vohra received summons from Enforcement Directorate (ED) in April this year, seeking information and documents related to foreign investments, financials and the company's business, in connection with proceedings under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), the firm disclosed in its updated Draft Red Herring Prospectus (UDRHP).

The ED sought details, including foreign and overseas investments and audited financial statements, among others.

T.N. got nod but 'nothing moving forward': Shipping Ministry sources

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

Even the detailed project report was awaited, the official said.

An in-principle approval has been given to the Tamil Nadu government for a greenfield mega ship-building cluster at Thoothukudi, based on the recommendation of the Directorate General of Shipping, top sources in the Shipping Ministry told *The Hindu*. But they raised concern there was no further communication from the State government and a DPR (Detailed Project Report) was awaited.

This was after *The Hindu* reported on how India's premier shipbuilding company Mazagon Dock Ltd. (MDL) was eyeing investment in Andhra Pradesh after being pushed away by the Tamil Nadu government for building agreenfield ship-building cluster at Thoothukudi. The State government is learnt to have brought a foreign firm on- board. An in-principle approval has also been given for the project.

"But, there is no movement on that front for some time now. We have been discussing but nothing has been moving forward. We do not know what happened after the in-principle approval. There seems to be a lack of communication," a senior official from the Ministry of Shipping told *The Hindu* on condition of anonymity.

Asked if the process for competitive bidding was followed before a special purpose vehicle was set up, the official said DG Shipping did not have any role in ascertaining that.

"As per guidelines, the National Ship Building Mission takes the decision on the basis of the recommendation given by DG Shipping. After the first stage was reviewed, in-principle approval was granted. We mentioned in the letter that all the necessary clearances should be submitted. But we haven't yet received the DPR."

Meanwhile, sources in MDL said they were willing to wait to hear back from the Tamil Nadu government on the Thoothukudi project. "It cannot be denied it is a strategic location with deep-water access, extensive coastal land, favourable seabed conditions, natural cyclone shielding and proximity to international shipping lanes," a senior official of MDL said.

The State government, however, did not respond to any of the detailed queries sent by *The Hindu* despite repeated follow-ups.

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The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking) Sankaramangalam, Kollam-691 583
Phone: 0476-2651215 to 2651217, e-mail: md@kmml.com, URL: www.kmml.com
TENDER NOTICE
For more details please visit E-Tendering Portal, https://etenders.kerala.gov.in or www.kmml.com

Sl No.	Tender ID	Items
1	2026_KMML_854783_1	Supply of Electric Hoists
2	2026_KMML_852965_1	Rubber lining work of slurry storage tank
3	2026_KMML_854964_1	Supply of coconut
4	2026_KMML_854967_1	Supply of Refrigerant Gas Freon 22 in Cylinder
5	2026_KMML_854765_1	Supply of Flocculant / Indfloc 442 / Flomin 4913K or Equivalent -12800 Kg
6	2026_KMML_854968_1	Global Tender for Supply of Alumino Silicate Ceramic Bead 16/20
7	2026_KMML_855032_1	Fabrication and Supply of Tickle Condenser
8	2026_KMML_854982_1	Supply of 4000 Nos Wooden Pallets-Export quality
9	2026_KMML_855008_1	Supply of Oilwet Filter Assembly with 200 & 80 NB Nozzle

Chavara 09.06.2026 Sd/- Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

ANDHRA PRADESH FOREST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Andhra Pradesh undertaking)
Head Office: 3rd Floor, P.V.S Land Mark, Near APIIC Towers Mangalagiri, Guntur District, AP-522503: LL.no: 08645-297211 & 08645-2977221
E-mail: vcmd_apfdc@yahoo.co.in, vcmd.apfdcl@gmail.com, Website: www.apfdcl.ap.gov.in
EUCALYPTUS DEBARKED PULPWOOD SALE NOTICE
Ref.No. OP.001/ EDPW/2025-26/Gen/Vol-I/399 Date: 09.06.2026
Sale of about **2.66 lakh metric tonnes** of **Eucalyptus Debarked Pulpwood** anticipated from Eucalyptus Plantations of A.P. Forest Development Corporation Limited, grouped into (30) units is proposed to be held through e- Tender cum e-Auction on "Konugolu", a Govt. of Andhra Pradesh e-Portal i.e., **"https://www.konugolu.ap.gov.in"** from 12.00 hrs to 14.00 hrs (1st spell) and from 15.00 hrs to 17.00 hrs (2nd spell) **on 24.6.2026.** Sale Units that remain unsold/unconfirmed will be exposed for sale again on **01.07.2026 & 08.07.2026.** For more details, please visit the websites: **https://www.konugolu.ap.gov.in & https://www.apfdcl.ap.gov.in.**
Sd/- Dr.S.S. Sreedhar, IFS.,
DIPR 5146PP/CL, Dt: 09/06/2026 **PCCF/ Vice Chairman and Managing Director**

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Bengaluru Division, 2nd Floor, PWD Annexure Building, K.R. Circle, Bengaluru-01.
Phone: 080-22133370
No. 05/2026-27 Date: 08.06.2026
SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
Item-rate tenders, for the work in PWD, **Anekal** Sub Division under this office noted below, are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka in accordance with Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement rules 2000 and as per Standard Tender Documents for procurement of works from the contractors registered in K.P.W.D. as per KPPP. Tender Notification are Published **for 01 Work (Rs. 990.00 Lakhs).** Details of the tender works can be obtained from the above Office during office hours on working days. **EMD & Tender processing fees are mentioned in KPP portal.**
(1) Tenders must be submitted online through KPP portal on or before **4.00 PM on Dated: 17.06.2026. (2)** The opening of tenders through KPP portal on **Dated: 18.06.2026 at 4.30 PM** or further date and time will be Intimated.
Sd/- Executive Engineer.
DIPR/DD-C.P/1056/KSMCA/2026-27

MAHATRANSCO Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.
INVITATION FOR BID (IFB)
(LOCAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING)
SRM e-Tender No. T-2640/MSETCL/CO/Projects/Pre-Tender (RFx No. 6000001532) (3rd Call)
MSETCL invites offers by SRM e-tendering in TWO bid system (Techno-Commercial Bid and Price Bid) from the eligible registered bidders for the following work as detailed below.
"Establishment of 132/33kV Shirud Substation along with construction of LILO Line on 132kV Borvihir-Chalisgaon line for proposed 132kV Shirud Substation (RL – 4.865 km) Dist. Dhule under Nashik zone, MSETCL, Maharashtra."
Interested bidders may obtain further information available on the website **https://srmetender.mahatransco.in**
The date of downloading of Bid documents available on the website is from 05.06.2026.
Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Projects), MSETCL

RAJASTHAN STATE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT CORPORATION LTD.
(A Rajasthan Government Undertaking)
Udyog Bhawan, Tilak Marg, Jaipur- 302005, Phone- 0141-2227751, 4593201
E-mail: riico@riico.co.in Website-riico.rajasthan.gov.in
TENDER NOTICE
RIICO invites sealed tenders/bids through eproc.rajasthan.gov.in for the following works/ services/supply etc.

Sr. No.	Office & Type of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs.in Lacs)
1.	**Unit Head, Jaipur(South)**	
1.1	Construction of Road at RIICO Land Daulatpura, Jaipur. **UBN-RDC2627WLOB00661**	1323.19
1.2	Development Works (Improvement of ROW by P & F of Interlocking Tiles, Improvement & Covering of Drains & Construction of RWHS) at Industrial Area Bassi, Jaipur. **UBN-RDC2627WLOB00663**	620.71
1.3	Infrastructure Improvement Works at Industrial Area Malviya, Jaipur. **UBN-RDC2627WSOB00664**	475.68
1.4	Development Works at Industrial Area Bassi (Ext.), Jaipur. **UBN-RDC2627WLOB00665**	518.73
1.5	Development Works at Industrial Area Hirawala and Hirawala (Ext.), Jaipur. **UBN-RDC2627WLOB00666**	837.42
2.	**Unit Head, Bhiwadi-I**	
2.1	Upgradation of Power Line Infrastructure at REIZ Bhiwadi. **UBN-RDC2627WLOB00622**	2606.99
3.	**Unit Head, EPIP Sitapura, Jaipur**	
3.1	Providing Laying and Jointing of Distribution Pipe Line with Associated Works at Industrial Area EPIP Sitapura, Jaipur. **UBN-RDC2627WSOB00599**	332.20
3.2	Widening of Roads with Raised Footpath, Construction of RCC Box Drain and Upgradation of Existing Drains at Industrial Area EPIP Sitapura, Jaipur. **UBN-RDC2627WLOB00600**	853.62
3.3	Improvement of Infrastructure at I/A SEZ-II, Sitapura, Jaipur. **UBN-RDC2627WLOB00601**	885.68
3.4	Providing & Fixing Street Light System on Octagonal Poles at SEZ-II, EPIP Sitapura, Jaipur. **UBN-RDC2627WSOB00602**	320.99
4.	**Unit Head, Ghiloth**	
4.1	Providing and Fixing of Reinforced Ferro Cement Covers on Open Drains at Industrial Area Ghiloth. **UBN-RDC2627WLOB00573**	1283.96
5.	**Unit Head, Jaipur(North)**	
5.1	Upgradation of Power Line Infrastructure at Industrial Area Jhotwara (T.A.), Jaipur. **UBN-RDC2627WLOB00596**	1056.69
6.	**Unit Head, Pali**	
6.1	Various Development Works at Ind. Area Mandia Road, Phase I/II Pali and Phase IV Pali. **UBN-RDC2627WLOB00607**	1805.50
7.	**Unit Head, Bikaner**	
7.1	Strengthening of Road and Construction of RCC Drains at REIZ IGC Khara. **UBN-RDC2627WLOB00630**	926.34
7.2	Upgradation of Power Line Infrastructure at REIZ Khara IGC. **UBN-RDC2627WSOB00629**	347.98
7.3	Upgradation of Power Line Infrastructure at REIZ Karni Ph I & II. **UBN-RDC2627WLOB00632**	579.71
8.	**Unit Head, Kota**	
8.1	Construction of RCC Retaining Wall along the Nallah Passing through Institutional Area, Ranpur, Kota. **UBN-RDC2627WLOB00631**	629.33
9.	**Unit Head, Kishangarh**	
9.1	Providing, Laying & Shifting of Power Line at Industrial Area Udaipur Khurd. **UBN-RDC2627WSOB00548**	469.04
10.	**Unit Head, Banswara**	
10.1	Construction of RCC Drain, Box Culverts and Boundary Wall at IGP Peepalwa, Banswara. **UBN-RDC2627WSOB00619**	358.37
11.	**Unit Head, Neemrana**	
11.1	Upgradation of Power Line Infrastructure at I/A Sotanala. **UBN-RDC2627WSOB00616**	308.40
11.2	Upgradation of Power Line Infrastructure at I/A Neemrana Ph-II. **UBN-RDC2627WSOB00618**	319.14
12.	**Unit Head, Nagaur**	
12.1	Up-gradation of Infrastructure at Transferred Ind Area Nagaur. **UBN-RDC2627WSOB00658**	207.10
12.2	Upgradation of Infrastructure at Industrial Area IGC Parbatsar. **UBN-RDC2627WSOB00659**	461.28

Bidders/contractors may download and submit tender online. Detailed information of tenders and any kind of corrigendum/ date extension, if any in future, may be seen by bidders on websites riico.rajasthan.gov.in, www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in and www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in
For queries please contact: GM (Civil) Ph. 0141-4593214 Raj.Samwad/C/26/4492

BEIRUT

Hezbollah urges authorities in Lebanon to mend ties with Iran

AFP

Hezbollah on Tuesday urged Lebanese authorities to mend their relationship with the group's backer Iran and benefit from Tehran's support, days after Iran struck Israel in response to bombardment on south Beirut. Last week, Lebanon's President issued pointed calls for Tehran to stop interfering in their country's affairs. AFP

BUNIA

Ebola death toll rises to over 100 out of 550 verified cases; 19 recover

AFP

Out of the 550 cases of Ebola confirmed as of Sunday after the outbreak of the disease in Congo, there have been 101 deaths and 19 recoveries, the latest situation report said on Monday. Meanwhile, attacks on health workers and armed conflict in hot spots continue to challenge efforts to control the outbreak. AP

SAN FRANCISCO

Anthropic opens most powerful AI model to public with safeguards

AFP

Anthropic, maker of the Claude AI models, made the most powerful version of its technology available to the general public on Tuesday while restricting its use in sensitive areas. Dubbed Fable 5, the model is the first to be made widely available from the company's new Mythos class — its most advanced lineup of AI technology. AFP

MANILA

Philippines slams China's floating 'structure' on disputed waters

AFP

The Philippines has protested China's deployment of a floating "structure" with personnel at the disputed Scarborough Shoal, fearing it could become an island base. Beijing dismissed Manila's concern and reiterated that it has "sovereignty" over the shoal and waters, without offering any details to the Philippine officials. AP

Militants, police executed, maimed dozens of Palestinians: UN report

The report records 249 cases of extrajudicial punishment between August 2024 and January 2026, resulting in 108 deaths; reported abuses include executions, kneecapping, breaking bones with metal pipes or cement bricks, and severe beatings

Associated Press
RAMALLAH

Hamas militants and police units in Gaza beat, maimed and publicly executed dozens of Palestinians during its war with Israel in acts amounting to war crimes, according to a United Nations report released on Tuesday.

The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights' report documented hundreds of cases of extrajudicial punishment in the war-ravaged territory, which it said were often publicised during and afterward to instil fear in the populace.

"These cases involved executions, kneecapping, bone-breaking with metal pipes or cement bricks and beatings and were framed by the perpetrators as punishments for alleged collaboration with Israel, looting humanitarian aid, theft, drug-related offences or affiliations with internal rivals," it said.

The commission found that Hamas-affiliated militants and police forces were involved in nearly one-fourth of the 249 documented cases – including 108 deaths – from August 2024 to January 2026. The commission specifically investigated cases involving Hamas-affiliated forces but also counted ones attributed to other armed groups.

Supreme power: Hamas has run Gaza for nearly two decades since seizing control of the territory from the Palestinian Authority. AP

Representatives for Hamas did not respond to questions about the report's allegations.

Hamas has run Gaza for nearly two decades since seizing control of the territory from the internationally recognised Palestinian Authority. Since an October ceasefire halted more than two years of full-scale war with Israel, Hamas has steadily reconsolidated its control over the areas of Gaza that it still governs.

According to the report, rather than being imposed through courts or judges, the punishments were carried out by Hamas's military wing and police units.

Srinivasan Muralidhar, the UN commission's chair, said the abuses documented in Gaza were occurring in an "environment engineered by Israel," where "Hamas-affiliated forces have exploited the vacuum created by relentless Israeli attacks and widespread destruction".

Hold Pakistan accountable for crackdown in PoK: MEA

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

India on Tuesday called on the global community to hold Pakistan accountable for the loss of lives in the police crackdown in Rawalkot, Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). Randhir Jaiswal, official spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, accused Pakistan of committing human rights abuses in PoK and said the police crackdown on Rawalkot protests that took place against a steep hike in prices of essential commodities was "severe".

"There are reports of severe police brutality in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in which several protesters have been killed and many injured. We hope the international community will hold Pakistan accountable for its misdeeds and abuses," said Mr. Jaiswal in a press briefing. The statement came after media reports from the region stated that police attacked unarmed individuals who were protesting against price rise. Protesters had also demanded authorities abolish the reservation of 12 seats for refugees in scheduled legislative election on July 27.

Randhir Jaiswal

PoK has witnessed police crackdown on multiple occasions over the years, including in 2025 when nine persons were killed. The latest protest that started under the leadership of Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) on June 5 was triggered when local residents demanded subsidy on electricity and flour and restoration of civil liberties in Muzaffarabad, Rawalkot, and Mirpur.

Mr. Jaiswal took note of a social media campaign that aims to tarnish the protesters and said: "We continue to see in this context, a pattern of fake news and videos emanating from Pakistan. It is a desperate attempt by Pakistan to cover up its own failings and deflect attention from its human rights abuses."

Indian entities on latest EU sanctions package on Russia

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

The European Commission has proposed its 21st package of sanctions on Russia which also includes Indian entities. The sanctions need to be approved by member states before they are finalised.

The proposed package focuses on energy, crypto and financial services and trade, including fisheries, European Commission President Ursula Von der Leyen said.

The sanctions would also ban the entry of former Russian combatants into the EU.

"Brick by brick, we are collapsing the foundations of Russia's war economy," the EU's top diplomat Kaja Kallas said on X.

Ursula von der Leyen

"The new listings will cover more than 30 designations in the drones manufacturing as well as new export control measures on 50 companies, including entities based in China, Turkiye, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, UAE, and India," Ms. Kallas wrote.

This is not the first time Indian entities have found themselves on a EU sanctions list. However, the news comes as Brussels and New Delhi are in the implementation phase of a trade agreement that was announced in February.

The sanctions add 30 vessels to the existing 632 sanctioned ships in the so called "shadow fleet" of Russia – vessels transporting Russian oil and petroleum products and circumventing Western sanctions.

The package also expands sanctions to cover 31 more Russian banks, 20 banks, crypto-related entities and oil traders in third countries. It also introduces an export ban on equipment used to support drones and metals and alloys used in defence and aerospace.

BYD, Alibaba, Baidu aiding Chinese Army, says Pentagon

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

The Pentagon has added several prominent Chinese businesses, including the tech giant Alibaba, electric car maker BYD and search engine Baidu, to its list of Chinese military companies, preventing them from getting U.S. defence contracts.

The list now sanctions well-known, non-state-owned Chinese companies that are not traditionally considered to be in the defence or security sector.

The Chinese Embassy accused the U.S. of "overstretching the concept of national security and making discriminatory lists".

Washington considering three pressure scenarios against Cuba, says Diaz-Canel

Agence France-Presse
HAVANA

Cuba's President said in an interview published on Monday that the United States was considering three possible scenarios for its pressure campaign against the communist-led island: fomenting social unrest, assuming control of the economy or launching a military campaign.

The remarks by Miguel Diaz-Canel to Spanish digital news outlet *elDiario.es* come as his country faces an escalating economic crisis under U.S. President Donald Trump's campaign, which include a fuel blockade and ramping up of sanctions.

People queue outside a bank in Havana as U.S. sanctions prompt a foreign bank to sever ties with a financial institution in Cuba. AFP

"They are betting on three scenarios," Mr. Diaz-Canel said.

"One scenario is through economic strangulation to provoke social unrest, and for that social unrest to then give them the chance, under the pretext of humanitarian aid, to intervene," he said.

The second is to "continue a coercive dialogue with Cuba, using maximum pressure, in order to seize the Cuban economy, to occupy the country economically and for that to then give them the possibility of provoking a change in the political system, which is the ultimate goal of the United States," he said.

The United States has pressured several foreign businesses in recent weeks to halt their activities in Cuba by threatening sanctions against anyone doing deals with state-run enterprises.

"A third scenario is that of military aggression," Mr. Diaz-Canel added, emphasising that all three possibilities had been mentioned by Mr. Trump. In the face of possible military action, Mr. Diaz-Canel defended Cuba's right to prepare to defend itself, in such a way "that there is no surprise" nor "defeat".

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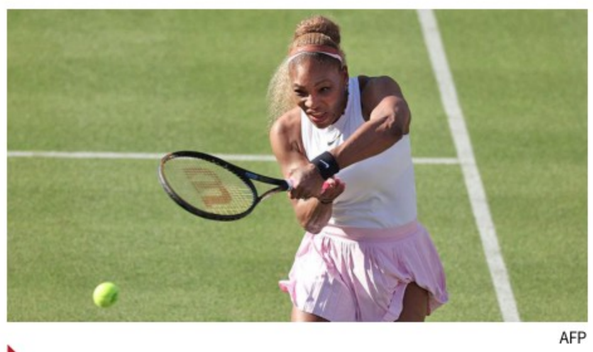
BACK WHERE SHE BELONGS

Serena, all of 44, makes a winning return to professional tennis



AFP

Serena Williams made a successful return to professional tennis on Tuesday. The 44-year-old walked onto the court at Queen's Club for her first-round doubles match with Victoria Mboko. They beat the third-seeded duo of Nicole Melichar-Martinez and Erin Routliffe 7-6(2), 6-2 in Serena's first professional match in nearly four years.

TEAM UPDATE

Netherlands replaces injured Timber with Geertruida in squad

GETTY IMAGES

Arsenal defender Jurrien Timber has been replaced in the Netherlands FIFA World Cup squad by Sunderland's Lutsharel Geertruida, the Dutch football federation announced on Monday. Premier League winner Timber, 24, has suffered a groin issue to add to the side's injury list ahead of the quadrennial event.

GREEN LIGHT

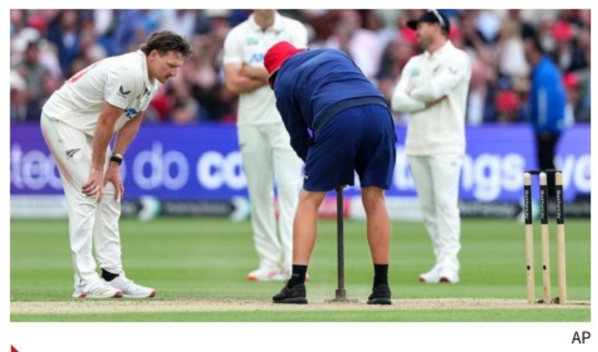
Hardik, Rohit cleared for ODI series against Afghanistan

AP

Hardik Pandya and Rohit Sharma have been cleared by the sports science team of BCCI's Centre of Excellence to participate in India's three-match ODI series against Afghanistan. Hardik and Rohit missed a few IPL 2026 matches for Mumbai Indians due to back spasms and a hamstring issue, respectively.

FAILING THE TEST

Lord's and Gaddafi Stadium pitches rated 'unsatisfactory'



AP

The pitches for the first Test between England and New Zealand at Lord's, *in pic,* in London and the third ODI between Pakistan and Australia at Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore were rated "unsatisfactory" under the ICC Pitch and Outfield Monitoring Process. The two venues have been handed one demerit point each.

Argentina has a shot at immortality

Ronaldo-led Portugal seeks a maiden crown; Kane eager to land a first silverware for the Three Lions in 60 years; Croats remain strong challengers

FIFA WC COUNTDOWN

Anirudh Velamuri

Talismanic: Messi will be eager to bow out on a high while Ronaldo has one final chance to win the biggest prize in world football. GETTY IMAGES & REUTERS

Lionel Messi's Argentina will begin its FIFA World Cup defence against Algeria in Group J. Austria and debutant Jordan complete the group. Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal is placed in Group K along with Colombia, DR Congo and Uzbekistan. Perennial underachiever England, under Harry Kane, finds itself in a tricky Group L also featuring Croatia, Ghana and Panama.

Group J (Argentina, Austria, Algeria, Jordan)

No nation has successfully defended the FIFA World Cup since Brazil's immortal side of 1962. Sixty-four years later, Argentina arrives in North America with a chance to break that jinx and etch its name alongside football's most enduring legacies.

Lionel Scaloni's men topped CONMEBOL qualifying to secure their place at the global showpiece. More importantly, they bring continuity, with as many as 17 members of the squad that conquered Qatar being picked. On paper, they possess one of the tournament's most complete squads –balanced, battle-tested, and brimming with quality.

Yet history has shown that defending a crown is often harder than winning it. Questions linger over whether Argentina can summon the same edge and hunger that drove it to glory four years ago.

Scaloni has already cemented his place in Argentine football folklore, becoming the first coach to deliver both the World Cup (2022) and the Copa America (2021 and 2024). But *La Albiceleste*'s destiny may ultimately rest with the other Lionel. At 38, Messi remains the heartbeat of the team – his presence alone can change the complexion of a match, and the hopes of a football-mad nation rest on his shoulders.

Its rivals are anything but supporting actors. Austria returns to football's grandest stage for the first time since 1998. Under Ralf Rangnick, the Austrians have become one of Europe's most relentless sides, capable of overwhelming even elite opponents with their pressing and organisation. Having guided them to the round of 16 at Euro 2024, Rangnick will believe another knockout appearance is well within reach.

Algeria arrives armed with flair, pace, and devastating efficiency in transition. Mohamed Amoura announced himself during qualifying with 10 goals – more than any African player – and the 26-year-old will spearhead its bid to upset the established order alongside captain Riyad Mahrez.

While debutants are often dismissed as outsiders, Jordan has earned its place on merit, scoring a national record 32 goals during qualification and remaining unbeaten away from home. Unburdened by expectation, it could prove far more dangerous than its inexperience suggests.

Best finish: Argentina: Champion (1978, 1986, 2022); Austria: Third place (1954); Algeria: Round of 16 (2014); Jordan: Debutant.

Group K (Portugal, Colombia, DR Congo, Uzbekistan)

The World Cup has always been a stage where individual brilliance collides with collective ambition, and Group K offers a compelling snapshot of that eternal tension.

Portugal arrives armed with experience, depth and no shortage of star power under Roberto Martinez. Built around possession control and creative dominance through central areas, *Os Navegadores* will expect nothing less than the top spot. Yet the spotlight inevitably falls on Ronaldo, set to make a record sixth World Cup appearance just like Messi. At 41, his role may be more measured than before, but his influence remains immense. Defenders are still drawn to him, spaces still open around him, and every touch still carries the weight of history.

Four years after Messi completed football's ultimate quest, Ronaldo steps onto the grandest stage once more with perhaps one final chance to do the same.

Colombia, meanwhile, brings South American flair and unpredictability after finishing third in CONMEBOL qualifying with 28 points from 18 matches. *Los Cafeteros* are packed with technically gifted midfielders and explosive wide attackers, thriving in a style that often feels chaotic but is undeniably creative.

For neutrals, they promise entertainment; for opponents, a difficult puzzle. While capable of carving open defences with ease, their adventurous approach can leave them vulnerable in transition.

For DR Congo, this tournament marks the end of a 52-year wait – its only previous appearance came in 1974, when it competed as Zaire. Under Sebastien Desabre, it has developed a clear identity built on athleticism, aggressive pressing and set-piece threat. *Les Leopards* relish physical battles and seek to punish opponents through quick transitions, though maintaining tactical discipline against elite opposition will be crucial.

Uzbekistan enters uncharted territory with its maiden World Cup appearance. Coached by Fabio Cannavaro, the side reflects its head coach's philosophy: organised, disciplined and difficult to break down. In a group filled with bigger names, it could emerge as the dark horse, turning tight contests into a pathway toward the knockouts.

Best finish: Portugal: Third place (1966); Colombia: Quarterfinals (2014); DR Congo: Group Stage (1974); Uzbekistan: Debutant.

Group L (England, Croatia, Ghana and Panama)

Desperate to finally end a cycle of hope followed by heartbreak, England turned to Thomas Tuchel with one mission: bring an end to 60 years of tournament agony.

The early signs were emphatically positive. England stormed through qualifying with eight wins from eight, conceding no goals and becoming the first UEFA nation to secure its place at the 2026 edition.

The mood, however, has cooled slightly. A 1-1 draw with Uruguay, a 1-0 defeat to Japan and a laboured 1-0 win over New Zealand have tempered expectations.

This England side is comfortable controlling matches, dictating tempo and patiently probing for openings before accelerating with purpose.

Yet for all its possession and structure, it still leans heavily on individual brilliance to unlock stubborn opponents. Tuchel's blueprint is clear: defensive solidity as the foundation, elite attacking talent as the difference-maker – a philosophy built for tournament football, where fine margins separate glory from despair.

England may be the favourite to top the group, but Croatia will ensure nothing comes easily.

Under Zlatko Dalic, ball retention, tempo control and positional discipline remain defining traits, allowing Croatia to navigate pressure with remarkable composure. Defensive organisation and intelligent game management make *Vatreni* dangerous in tight contests. While the winless group-stage exit at Euro 2024 raised doubts, Croatia responded with an outstanding qualifying campaign, collecting 22 points from a possible 24. For a nation that finished runner-up in 2018 and third in 2022, belief in another deep run remains strong.

Since its World Cup debut in 2006, Ghana has become a familiar presence on football's biggest stage, missing only the 2018 edition in the last two decades. The Black Stars thrive in transition, using athleticism, pace and direct running to turn open games into dangerous affairs.

Panama arrives as the disciplined outsider. Featuring the second-oldest squad at the tournament, *Los Canaleros* are making just their second World Cup appearance, eager to erase memories of 2018, when they lost all three group matches and conceded 11 goals. Their path to success lies in organisation, set pieces and seizing opportunities whenever they arise.

Best finish: England: Champion (1966); Croatia: Runner-up (2018); Ghana: Quarterfinals (2010); Panama: Group stage (2018).

In full flow: Australia opener Voll is the world's No. 1-ranked batter in the shortest format. FILE PHOTO

Australia looks the strongest in Group A

T20 WC COUNTDOWN

P.K. Ajith Kumar

No sport is as enchantingly uncertain as cricket. The Women's T20 World Cup, however, begins with a grim certainty: one of the three best teams will not last beyond the group stage.

Australia, India and South Africa are all fabulous outfits with some of the biggest superstars in the game. Australia has won six of the nine previous editions; India is the reigning ODI World champion; South Africa has contested the last three World Cup finals across formats.

Sadly, at least one of those sides will not make it to the semifinals from Group A.

Australia may be going through an inevitable stage of transition, post the retirements of long-time captain Meg Lanning and recent skipper Alyssa Healy, but it still looks the strongest, most complete side. Healy had led the Aussies admirably, from behind and in front of the stumps, after taking over from Lanning. Many of her teammates, who have known her for several years, must be missing her banter, sense of humour, not to mention her obvious skills: she had bid farewell only three months ago.

Her replacement at the top of the order hasn't done badly, though. Georgia Voll is, in fact, the world's No. 1 batter in T20 cricket. That is how solid the Australian bench is.

Apart from Voll, the batting boasts such proven performers as Beth Mooney, Ellyse Perry, Phoebe Litchfield, Annabel Sutherland, Ashleigh Gardner and Grace Harris. Many of them are proper all-rounders, too. Bowling has variety, in pacers like Megan Schutt, Nicola Carey and Lucy Hamilton and spinners such as Alana King, Georgia Wareham and skipper Sophie Molineux.

The South Africans may not have to deal with such a problem of plenty. But they have Laura Wolvaardt.

And the captain fantastic is in incredible form. In the five-match T20I series against India at home she had scores of 51, 54, 115, 18 and 92 not out. South Africa won 4-1: no prize for guessing which match her team lost.

Ahead of the World Cup, South Africa got a big boost with Shabnim Ismail coming out of retirement. Her sheer pace should complement the remarkable skillset of Marizanne Kapp, who is also one of the game's premier all-rounders.

South Africa has several other talents, such as Sune Luus, Tazmin Brits, Chloe Tryon and Ayabonga Khaka. They all should be keen not to give the world another reason to call their country a bunch of chokers at cricket.

Two other Asian countries are grouped with India. The expectations aren't high from Pakistan or Bangladesh, though. Both teams possess some fine players, but they could find it tough to challenge the big three in the group. The likes of Pakistan's captain Fatima Sana and Bangladesh's Marufa Akter have the game to take on the big girls.

The Netherlands completes the group. The Dutchmen had done their country proud at the 2023 ODI World Cup in India. Skipper Babette de Leede's cousin Bas was part of that team. She would want her team to pen a similar inspiring story.

Playing World Cup a dream-come-true moment

The striker cannot wait for the 2026 showpiece to start, adding that Norway has prepared to be at the best of its physical, mental and tactical abilities

Haaland has quality written all over him. GETTY IMAGES

INTERVIEW

Erling Haaland

Norwegian striker Erling Haaland believes the team returning to the FIFA World Cup after 28 years will be celebrated back home.

Excerpts:

Your debut World Cup is here...

I cannot express my excitement! It's such a big thing. I had never experienced it. When Norway played in a World Cup (1998), I was not born. So, it is going to be the first time I shall be enjoying a World Cup with my countrymen.

When I started playing professional football, it remained a dream to see my country participate in a FIFA World Cup. Now it is a dream-come-true moment for me.

You also played a significant part by scoring the most goals (16) in the qualifiers...

It was a team effort, and my teammates helped me be there to score. It is really amazing to be part of the squad that made history by qualifying for the biggest stage.

Personally, it should be a bigger celebration since you will be emulating your father, Alf-Inge, in terms of playing in a World Cup in the USA...

That's so satisfying and at the same time, so challenging! Dad always shared memories of playing in a World Cup. Now, I shall be sharing my journey with him with the same excitement.

Will there be comparisons?

No comparisons, absolutely! It is all about celebration and pure joy. That we shall be playing the World Cup after 28 years is already the biggest thing to have happened in our footballing history. Kids of Norway will have memories to share when they grow up, something I could not...

Norway is in a tough group (I) with France, Senegal and Iraq...

This is impossible to predict in a World Cup. Yes, we have three nations with great football history. We are trying to write ours as well. And in the World Cup, every match will be tough. We have prepared to be at the best of our physical, mental and tactical abilities during that phase and that's all for now.

Is it not easier to qualify for the knockouts now?

This, from another angle, is true. But that is never a concern. We need to play at our best against three best countries in the group phase. Forty-eight best football-playing nations will be there and we are one of them.

(Professional Management Group).

On the rampage: South Africa captain Wolvaardt has been in incredible form. GETTY IMAGES

INBRIEF

Wembanyama excels, Spurs edge Knicks to cut lead to 1-2

Victor Wembanyama scored 32 points as San Antonio Spurs beat New York 115-111 in the NBA Finals on Monday, snapping the Knicks' 13-game win streak with President Donald Trump in attendance. The 22-year-old Frenchman added eight rebounds, six assists, three blocks and two steals as the Spurs cut the Knicks' lead to 1-2 in the best-of-seven championship series with game four in New York on Wednesday. Stephon Castle added 23 points for the Spurs while Dylan Harper had 13 off the bench.

Rain washes out third ODI, SL wins series against WI

The third ODI between West Indies and Sri Lanka at Kingston, Jamaica, went the same way as the second and was washed out on Monday without a ball being bowled. Sri Lanka won the series 1-0.

Sahil, Jyothi Surekha emerge best Indians in qualification

Sahil Jadhav and V. Jyothi Surekha emerged as the top Indian compound male and female archers respectively after the qualification round of the Archery World Cup Stage-3 in Antalya on Tuesday.Jadhav shot one point less than his career best score of 711 this season710, while Jyothi logged her season best of 700.

The results: Individual: Men: Sahil Jadhav (10th, 710), Rishabh Yadav (22nd, 706), Ganesh Mani Ratnam Thirumuru (33rd, 703), Kushal Dalal (43rd, 699).**Women:** V. Jyothi Surekha (7th, 700), Chikitha Taniparthi (10th, 698), Parneet Kaur (18th, 693), Prithika Pradeep (22nd, 690). **Team:** India: Men (3rd, 2119), Women (2nd, 2091), Mixed (5th, 1410).

Mosaddek, Rana star in Bangladesh's victory

Mosaddek Hossain hit a career-best 86 not out and Nahid Rana, *in pic.*, took four wickets as Bangladesh trounced Australia by 86 runs in the rain-hit opening ODI in Dhaka on Tuesday to go 1-0 up in the three-match series.

The scores: Bangladesh 284/8 in 50 overs (Mosaddek 86 n.o. Shanto 67; Ellis 3/38) bt Australia 191/9 in 42.2 overs (Green 52 n.o. Carey 47; Rana 4/41). Bangladesh won by 86 runs via DLS method. **Toss:** Australia. **PoM**: Mosaddek Hossain.

Falcon HC bests Bengaluru Blue; DB United runs riot

Falcon Hockey Club defeated Bengaluru Blues 4-2 in the KSHA Super Division hockey league match in Bengaluru on Tuesday. In other action, DB United whipped Pioneer FC 10-1 in the KSFA 'C' division football league.

The results: KSHA Super Division hockey league: Falcon HC 4 (Appachu 13, Jayaprakash 15, Suresh 38, Goutham Ganapathi 48) bt Bengaluru Blues HC 2 (Vijay Uthaiah 17, Pranav Thimmaiah 40); 5 'C' SC 2 (Pankaj Sharma 31, Sami Rizwan 43) bt Metro HC 1 (Kabilan 33).
KSFA league: 'C' division: DB United FC bt Pioneer FC 10-1; Black Moon bt Yelahanka FC 6-0; Ronaldo FC bt Victoria FC 8-0; Play 365 FC bt Annsh Sports Club 6-1. **'D' division:** Willow Sports bt Team Plan C 4-0; Premier Sports bt FCA 2-0; Ram Murthy Nagar bt Bangalore Saints 1-0.

LIVE TELECAST

Women's T20 World Cup (warm-up): England vs India, Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 2.30 p.m.

India's young guns grab the chance with both hands

The thumping win over Afghanistan was the soothing balm the team needed after the poor run at home against the Proteas; Manav made a memorable debut while No. 3 Sai Sudharsan came good

AFGHANISTAN IN INDIA

Vivek Krishnan
NEW CHANDIGARH

In fine touch: Sai Sudharsan looked in control during his 81-run knock. R.V. MOORTHY

After back-to-back defeats against South Africa at home last November, a thumping win against Afghanistan – India's biggest by an innings in Test history – was just the sort of hassle-free return to the five-day version that a young team under Shubman Gill needed.

As head coach Gautam Gambhir stressed in his pre-match media briefing, this is a side still in the throes of transition after the retirements of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma 12 months ago.

"The actual transition happened from the England tour. It has just been nine Tests. A majority of these boys have played less than 30 Tests," Gambhir would assert in his typically fiery tone on the eve of the clash.

In such a scenario, every Test counts as an opportunity for the young players to learn more about the nuances of the game and iron out their chinks.

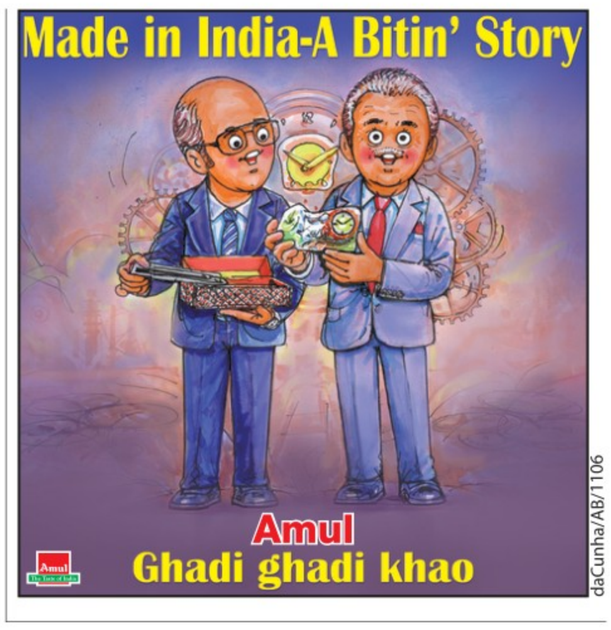
Sai Sudharsan is a case in point. Having shown a frailty to getting caught on the on-side on his first tour of England last year, a plan of attack that was new to him by his own admission, the No. 3 batter exhibited far greater control with his wristy flicks in the just-concluded Test.

Despite Gambhir's implicit backing in the lead-up, a low score here for the southpaw would have led to further scrutiny about a batting average languishing in the low 30s after 12 innings. By making 81 against the Afghans, the 24-year-old has given himself a bit of breathing space. It should perturb him nevertheless that this is the second time he has squandered a three-figure score there for the taking – he was dismissed on 87 against West Indies in Delhi last October.

For Rishabh Pant, too, this was an important outing. After a disastrous IPL that ended with his resignation as Lucknow Super Giants skipper, the wicketkeeper utilised the safeguard of returning to his strongest format to rediscover his sprightly nature. He made 81 entertaining runs, and offered his characteristic wisecracks to the Afghanistan batters from behind the stumps.

The biggest positive, of course, was the seven-wicket match haul of debutant Manav Suthar. The 23-year-old's control over length and craft while extracting prodigious turn were most impressive.

With Gambhir stating that India would be taking four spinners on the tour of Sri Lanka in August, Manav is poised to accompany Ravindra Jadeja, Washington Sundar and Kuldeep Yadav to the island nation. All four will have to be in prime form in a series where spin will reign supreme.



Prasidh replaces Siraj in India's T20I squads

Sports Bureau
NEW CHANDIGARH

Prasidh. FILE PHOTO: K.R. DEEPAK

Prasidh Krishna has replaced Mohammed Siraj in India's squads for the upcoming T20I series against Ireland and England.

The decision to rest Siraj was taken following discussions between the team management and the medical team, a BCCI release stated on Tuesday.

"The decision has been taken as a precautionary measure to ensure adequate recovery ahead of a long international season," the release said.

In India's big win over Afghanistan in the Test here, Siraj bowled 13 overs across the two innings. The 32-year-old is not part of the ODI squad for the upcoming three-match series against Afghanistan.

Prasidh has played five T20Is so far.

India's tour begins with two T20Is in Ireland on June 26 and 28, followed by a five-match series against England from July 1 to 11. The Men in Blue will also plays three ODIs in England.

Ruturaj hundred sets up narrow win for India-A

INDIA-A IN SL

Press Trust of India
DAMBULLA

Rescue act: Ruturaj bailed India-A out of early trouble with a composed hundred. X@BCCI

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's first outing for India-A in one-day cricket ended with a muted 14 but his team hung in there till the end against a self-destructing Sri Lanka-A to pull off an eight-run win in the tri-series opener here on Tuesday.

Chasing 278, Sri Lanka-A had the game in the bag after captain Sahan Arachchige made a sublime 74 off 72 balls.

The inexplicable loss of the last four wickets in 10 balls, including three in the final over from pacer Arshad Khan, gave India-A a narrow win.

Ruturaj Gaikwad made a composed 101 to lead India-A to 277 for six.

The spin duo of Ayush Badoni (two for 46) and Anukul Roy (two for 49) kept India-A in the game after the pacers leaked runs early in Sri Lanka-A's chase.

India-A will next play Afghanistan-A on Thursday.

The game also marked the comeback of Niroshan Dickwella (47 off 45) who shared an opening-wicket stand of 93 with another Sri Lankan international Avishka Fernando (45 off 59).

Electing to bat, India-A was pushed to a mini-crisis at 16 for two in five overs after the early dismissals of Sooryavanshi and Prabhsimran Singh.

Vice-captain Ruturaj, who scored his 21st List-A hundred in 112 balls, and skipper Tilak Varma (60, 97b) added 150 for the fourth wicket to steady the ship.

The scores: India-A 277/6 in 50 overs (Ruturaj Gaikwad 101, Tilak Varma 60) bt Sri Lanka-A 269 in 48.5 overs (Sahan Arachchige 74).

SNAPSHOTS

Gukesh to return to Chennai Grand Masters

CHENNAI: Reigning World chess champion D. Gukesh will return to the Chennai Grand Masters after a two-year absence from the classical tournament. The fourth edition will be hosted here from July 16 to 22.

Gukesh's participation was confirmed by the tournament organisers on Tuesday. It was at this competition that the 20-year-old Grandmaster had virtually sealed his 2024 Candidates qualification with a thrilling triumph.

Uzbekistan GM Nodirbek Abdusattorov is expected to feature in what is set to be an eight-player event, while M. Pranesh is also likely to compete for honours.

Akshat reigns supreme in Senior Max class

COIMBATORE: Bengaluru's Akshat Misra (Peregrine Racing) emerged champion in the Senior Max class as the third and final round of the Meco Meritus Cup karting concluded at the CoASTT Kartomania circuit here.

Hyderabad's Shiv Tummala (Peregrine Racing), among the most consistent of drivers, retained the crown after winning both the Sprint races in the Mini Max class. Rayo Racing's Aarav Sureka from Mumbai, who finished second and fifth in the two points-scoring outings, won the championship in the Micro Max category.

Meanwhile, in the Indian Karting Academy Trophy, Chennai's Rivaan Dev Preetham (MSPORT) clinched the title in the OK-Junior class.

The results: Meco Meritus Cup: Senior Max – Sprint Race-1 (14 laps): 1. Ishaan Madesh (Peregrine Racing) (10mins, 45.043secs); 2. Eshanth Vengatesan (MSPORT) (10:47.663); 3. Akshat Misra (Peregrine Racing) (10:48.674). **Sprint Race-2 (15 laps):** 1. Akshat (11:35.198); 2. Kiaan Shah (Rayo Racing) (11:37.053); 3. Shatveer Shetty (MSPORT) (11:40.549). **Champion:** Akshat (Peregrine Racing), 85 points. **Mini Max – Sprint Race-1 (10 laps):** 1. Shiv Tummala (Peregrine Racing) (07:52.372); 2. Micah Hayden Andrews (Peregrine Racing) (07:54.865); 3. Jishnu Seralathan (Peregrine Racing) (07:59.218). **Sprint Race-2 (12 laps):** 1. Shiv (09:25.332); 2. Jishnu Seralathan (09:27.317); 3. Micah Hayden Andrews (09:28.268). **Champion:** Shiv (Peregrine Racing), 96 points. **Micro Max – Sprint Race-1 (10 laps):** 1. Zidaan Arshaan Anees (Peregrine Racing) (08: 14.876); 2. Aarav Sureka (Rayo Racing) (08:15.862); 3. Ayansh Patil (MSPORT) (08:19.450). **Sprint Race-2 (12 laps):** 1. Zidaan (09:51.846); 2. Yeshwin Vinay Kishore (Peregrine Racing) (09:57.498); 3. Shriyan Rao Thakkallapelly (Peregrine Racing) (09:58.018). **Champion:** Aarav (Rayo Racing), 78 points. **India Karting Academy Trophy (OK Junior):** Super Heat (11 laps): 1. Rishik Rohit Reddy (MSPORT) (08:25.138); 2. Rivaan Dev Preetham (MSPORT) (08:26.751); 3. Rehan Khan Rasheed (Momentum Motorsports) (08:26.977). **Final Race (14 laps): 1**. Rehan (10:42.327); 2. Rivaan (10:48.417); 3. Syed Luqman (Peregrine Racing) (10:51.930). **Champion:** Rivaan (MSPORT), 99 points.

Like the geyser in the bathroom, but a butler and protector too

BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

Few umpires are known as well as the players are, and that's as it should be. The great characters (Frank Chester, David Shepherd, Dicky Bird, Billy Bowden) are remembered. So too are the notorious (Douglas Sang Hue, Sambhu Pan, Lou Rowan, Steve Bucknor, Darrell Hair) for their occasional misdeeds. Yet, whatever their image from the consistently accurate to the comically inaccurate, umpires were doomed to unpopularity till the Decision Review System (DRS) reduced the mistakes.

Umpires are often recipients of the crowd's ire. Riots have erupted over decisions perceived as being unfavourable to local teams. My earliest cricket memory is running out of the stadium in Bengaluru with my hand in my father's after Australians Bill Lawry and John Gleeson had padded away the South Zone spinners to draw a match in 1969-70. Many thought the umpires allowed the batters to get away too often. Australians, chasing 200 lost their eighth wicket at 53.

Years later, Ashley Mallet revealed the secret. Gleeson, he said, had told each umpire, "if you give me out lbw I will wrap my bat around your head."

There's no recorded case of an umpire walking around with a bat for a crown, but there's worse. An umpire was stabbed to death this year, following a run-out decision in a local match in Visakhapatnam; another was killed for calling a no-ball in Cuttack.

There was a legendary umpire in Chennai who ran towards the boundary in a league match as the fielding team appealed, gave the batter out and jumped over the wall and into a bus. The same gentleman sometimes appeased the barrackers by giving them passes for internationals.

All umpires, even the best, make mistakes for one reason: they are human. But only if the decisions indicate incompetence or bias is there an issue. Thoughts of umpires have been in my mind since the passing of Vikram Raju, 92, famous for giving last man Maninder Singh out leg before in the tied Test of Chennai in 1986. Maninder insisted he was not out. But with one raised finger, Vikram Raju raised the status of Indian umpiring.

As top umpire Simon Taufel, said years later, "We (umpires) think differently – the job demands it as we have to deal with the facts and not emotions." The emotions were left to the thirty thousand of us in the stands. The two umpires (Dara Dotiwala was the other) were the only unemotional people in the cauldron.

That Vikram was never appointed for a Test match again tells us how much more profitable it would have been for him to compromise. Umpires in the subcontinent then were notorious for aiding the home team, causing Pakistan's Imran Khan to appoint 'neutral' umpires later that decade.

Vikram was sharp, calm and in control, and had a subtle sense of humour that helped him cope with the demands of umpiring while holding down a job in *Deccan Herald*, my first employers too. We played together for the club where these qualities became obvious.

Neville Cardus wrote the umpire "is like the geyser in the bathroom; we cannot do without it, yet we notice it only when it is out of order." The umpire is also a hat stand for the bowler, a good luck charm (whenever the score reached 111 David Shepherd would hop on one leg for luck), a barber (Bird once gave Sunil Gavaskar a haircut when his hair kept falling over his eyes), a butler who takes the players off for meals, a weatherman who works out when it's going to rain, a protector of the game and players, and occasionally, a "national treasure", as former British Prime Minister David Cameron labelled Dicky Bird.

In his early days as umpire, S. Venkatraghavan, easily was among the best, berated a bowler if he made a frivolous appeal. The DRS has reduced mistakes, but it has also taken away the characters, the fabulous originals.

Vikram Raju believed that all players should undergo umpiring training. After all, even the great Don Bradman sat for umpiring exams following the Bodyline series. His biographer wrote, "he did not consider himself a complete cricketer until he had thoroughly understood the laws and their interpretations." What was good enough for Bradman...

Stokes and Atkinson under investigation

Reuters
LONDON

The England and Wales Cricket Board said on Monday that Test captain Ben Stokes and fast bowler Gus Atkinson were under investigation following a nightclub incident which occurred in the early hours of Monday after England's victory over New Zealand at Lord's.

"The ECB is currently investigating a breach of team protocols following the conclusion of the first men's Test against New Zealand," said a statement.